Over the course of 60 years, Greenbelt Alliance has had hundreds of monumental wins, many leaders, and one constant—we love where we live. Our challenge was then, is now, and always will be, helping the Bay Area grow.
LETTER FROM THE CEO

Greenbelt Alliance helps the Bay Area handle how our nine-county region grows. Our job is to identify growth-related policy, planning, and funding solutions. We educate decision-makers about those solutions and mobilize the public to get behind them.

At Greenbelt Alliance, we are proud of what we have accomplished. Since the year 2000, the Bay Area has grown from 6.8 million people to 7.6 million—basically adding a city the size of San Francisco. Yet, based on analysis from At Risk, Greenbelt Alliance’s authoritative assessment of sprawl development threats to our region’s natural and agricultural lands, 150,000 acres of Bay Area open space is better protected from development today compared to 2000. That’s an area 30% larger than the city of San Jose.

But there is still a lot of work to do. At Risk, which was revised in 2017, finds there are still 293,000 acres of farms, ranches, and natural areas threatened by sprawl development. And there are many other things that are “at risk” from growth gone wrong: Epic traffic problems, resulting in part from housing being built far from jobs, puts our quality of life at risk. For many, the very ability to be a Bay Area resident is put at risk by our region’s housing affordability crisis which is fueled by the fact that, in recent years, our nine Bay Area counties have built far too few homes, especially for low- and very low-income residents, within our cities and towns and near public transit. Auto-dependent sprawl jeopardizes our climate; 40% of the Bay Area’s greenhouse gas emissions come from the tailpipes of our cars and trucks. This same sprawl development guzzles away our increasingly precious water, and experts recognize that the sedentary lifestyles that sprawl promotes put our health at risk, too.

Greenbelt Alliance’s 2017 work—from protecting the wildlife and water resource lands of San Jose’s Coyote Valley and Brentwood’s farms to advancing plans for nearly 10,000 homes around Mountain View’s Google campus—addressed head on how growth gone wrong threatens the Bay Area and, conversely, how growth done right can make our region a model of which we can all be proud. With our 2018 work, including helping the North Bay recover from last fall’s devastating fires, we aren’t going to slow down.

Today’s world faces threats more profound than most of us have ever seen. I am proud to be part of an organization, and to live in a metropolitan area, that is committed to tackling the threats we face with vigor and to being an example to the world around us. Because of support from people like you, Greenbelt Alliance is able to be a leader. Thank you so much for that support.

Jeremy Madsen, CEO
OUR CHALLENGE

HOW THE BAY AREA GROWS
MAKING GREENBELT ALLIANCE A PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES

The Bay Area is a special place that many people from different parts of the world now call home. It’s known for its culture of innovation, its can-do attitude, and its celebration of diversity. The area is especially known for its natural resources and its open spaces. But this special place is now facing huge challenges with regional traffic gridlock, a housing crisis, and a backlash against all development—good and bad.

Greenbelt Alliance stands tall in the Bay Area as the only organization that approaches land use issues holistically. We work at both the regional and local levels, advocate for open space preservation and smart growth, organize to promote healthy development as well as prevent bad development, focus not only on public policy, but also on practical implementation, combine advocacy with action, and work well on our own while collaborating effectively with partners. The organization is well regarded as the region’s “vision-keeper” and the voice of smart planning.

As a councilmember in Fremont, I relied on Greenbelt Alliance to be my “go-to” resource because of their well-researched data and their ability to help me connect the dots between various issues that are complex and interconnected. It was an honor for me to be asked to join the Greenbelt Alliance Board of Directors, and it gave me an opportunity to work with an amazing group of individuals who compose our staff and board. Serving as the Chair of the Board this past year has provided me a front-row seat to observe Greenbelt Alliance as a leader in shaping the rules that govern growth in our region.

Now more than ever, the Bay Area needs Greenbelt Alliance to work as a steward and a partner and help address the many challenges that continue to face this region. Greenbelt Alliance makes a lasting difference in the sustainability of the Bay Area’s environment and the livability of our cities and towns. Thank you for your past support. I hope we can count on you to be part of Greenbelt Alliance’s ongoing journey to keep the Bay Area a thriving, special place for future generations.

Anu Natarajan
Chair, Board of Directors
GREENBELT ALLIANCE IS THE ONLY BAY AREA ORGANIZATION THAT HOLISTICALLY ADDRESSES LAND-USE ISSUES—FROM LAND CONSERVATION TO SMART GROWTH DEVELOPMENT.
GREENBELT ALLIANCE SHAPES THE RULES THAT GOVERN GROWTH

We do this by providing expertise on and building support behind public policy and planning that promote open space conservation and smart growth. Here is a snapshot of our work in 2017.

With our group of passionate local enthusiasts, we guide our supporters through the Bay Area’s most beautiful places. In 2017 Greenbelt Alliance led

47 OUTINGS

Our expert staff, including East Bay Regional Director Joel Devalcourt, write comment letters on projects and plans, ensuring that decision-makers have accurate policy analysis and recommendations for improvements.

WE WROTE 56 COMMENT LETTERS

We provide a supportive voice for land conservation and smart growth decisions at regional and local community meetings. Regional Representative Kiyomi Honda Yamamoto and our staff attended

356 COMMUNITY MEETINGS
WE WORKED WITH 156 ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Collaboration is key when tackling complicated land-use issues. Our Planning & Research Manager Adam Garcia provides mapping services and visualization of land-use data to help our partners across the Bay Area bring our regional vision to life locally. See Adam’s work at greenbelt.org/bay-area-greenprint

We serve as experts at public events focused on land-use issues, leading the conversation about today’s challenges and opportunities in the Bay Area. Teri Shore, our North Bay Regional Director, and other Greenbelt Alliance staff

SPOKE AT 78 PUBLIC EVENTS

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY:
EVAN GORMAN ON PROTECTING SAND CREEK

“When we were teenagers in Antioch we didn’t know public land from private land. We explored what’s now the Sand Creek Focus Area without considering that what we loved about this place could be removed; the hills could be developed at any point. We thought that land was for us, the public, forever.”

Evan Gorman quickly learned how vulnerable unprotected land can be. Last year, his hometown of Antioch proposed a sprawl development on more than four square miles (2,700 acres) of natural and agricultural lands, more than twice the size of Golden Gate Park. “It was important to me that my hometown build in a sustainable way,” Evan says. “So, I got involved with Greenbelt Alliance to save the land I grew up with.”

Together with Evan, we created a strong coalition of passionate residents who campaigned to stop the plan. Although the plan is abandoned for now, the land still isn’t protected.

Read more about Evan and our ongoing work in Antioch at greenbelt.org/our-community.

Read more about our work with community groups and supporters on the following pages.
COMMUNITY PROFILE
BUD JOHNS’ ENDURING IMPACT

When Bud Johns came to the Bay Area in 1961, he immediately recognized what makes this place special—the stunning beauty of the Bay Area’s natural landscapes. After seeing the harmful effects of sprawl in other areas throughout the country, Bud wanted to get involved with an organization that worked to stop inappropriate development on critical lands throughout the region.

“Greenbelt Alliance really protects our way of life. I’ve loved the organization for a long time.”

Regarding our work to fight sprawl in the Bay Area, Bud says, “It’s a constant battle. There are always pressures—now more than ever. But the people working on these issues have always inspired me. A lot of people may not be aware of how instrumental Greenbelt Alliance has been in shaping the Bay Area. It has been wonderful to watch the organization grow.”

Over the decades, Bud has supported us in so many ways, from volunteering, to serving as Board President, to ensuring our long-term financial stability. In the 1980s, Bud and former Board member Jerry Tone were responsible for starting the Greenbelt Alliance endowment, an investment fund that supports our operations in perpetuity. Part of Bud’s legacy, the endowment now stands at over $1.5 million and continues to grow with new bequests from our generous donors.

Read more about Bud and the stories of our supporters, donors, and advocates at greenbelt.org/our-community. To support Greenbelt Alliance with a planned gift, visit greenbelt.org/planned-giving.
Sue Serrone has lived in Sunnyvale, California for a long time, long enough to raise a family, long enough to become a vital member of the community. As her daughters quickly grew into young women, Sunnyvale was also growing, fast. The South Bay’s expanding workforce pushed housing and rent prices higher and higher, straining the working class and moving Sue to action. Before she knew it, Sue was leading Livable Sunnyvale, a coalition of individuals and organizations who work together to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and people-friendly Sunnyvale.

“Greenbelt Alliance was the first organization to step up and say they would help with the coalition, specifically in two areas: advocacy and educational outreach.”

Greenbelt Alliance and Livable Sunnyvale are collaborating to address the community’s long-term health, ensuring that homes are provided for people across the income spectrum and that development benefits all of Sunnyvale’s residents by providing options to walk or bike to shops, offering convenient transportation choices, and adding access to nature.

We’re working with community groups all around the region to shape how the Bay Area grows. Our expertise and local residents’ passion make for a perfect partnership. We believe our partner Sue said it best, “Greenbelt Alliance allows us to think regionally, but act locally. It’s very empowering.”

To get involved, sign up for news and action alerts at greenbelt.org or reach out to our staff in your part of the Bay Area.
Since 1989, we’ve taken stock of the Bay Area’s open space protection accomplishments and what’s left to do in our signature report, At Risk: The Bay Area Greenbelt. This report is the definitive research on the farms, ranches, and natural areas at risk of being lost forever to sprawl development.

In 2017 we reported that there are 150,000 greenbelt acres that are better protected now than they were in 2000. In other words, for every acre of open space that was lost to sprawl development, roughly three acres are now better protected. But there is still work to do; 293,000 acres of our Bay Area greenbelt are still in jeopardy.
OUR IMPACT
This year, we stopped sprawl proposals in places like Antioch—which proposed the Bay Area’s largest sprawl development in 2017—and expanded our reach even further by opening an office in Solano County. But we aren’t just stopping sprawl; we’re ensuring the right growth happens in the right places—within our cities and towns. For example, with our partners in Mountain View, we secured a plan for 9,850 new homes near major employers, including Google and LinkedIn. And in Sunnyvale we are in the midst of securing a plan for 6,900 new homes in the city’s El Camino Real corridor, close to jobs and transit. The final adoption is expected in 2018. By helping cities plan for the right kinds of development within their boundaries, we protect the greenbelt, and the Bay Area grows sustainably and equitably.

HOW AT RISK AFFECTS THE BAY AREA
The Bay Area simply wouldn’t be the Bay Area without our greenbelt. Some of the benefits the greenbelt provides are obvious, like scenic views and recreation, but it also provides clean air and water, safety from floods, healthy food, and business opportunities. Our farms and ranches alone generate $2.7 billion in annual gross production value and $6.1 billion when considering the jobs, labor income, and value added from local agriculture.

Of our 3.6 million acre greenbelt, over two-thirds of it is agricultural land, 1.8 million acres provide water resources, and 2.5 million acres are important for wildlife. Together, the region’s lands store an enormous 111 million tons of carbon, regulating and protecting our climate. The benefits are overlapping and overwhelming.

The Bay Area won’t thrive without these lands; yet they are still under attack from sprawl development. For example, in 2017 Contra Costa County’s City of Brentwood tried to break its urban limit line to sprawl onto more than 2,000 acres of agricultural land and valleys. But Greenbelt Alliance and supporters, including local resident Kathy Griffin (pictured), fought back and continue to protect farms at the edge of the city. This year we’ve halted proposals like this around the region, protecting thousands of acres from sprawl. Regarding sprawl in Brentwood, Kathy says, “For the time being, we’ve won the common-sense battle. But it’s always a fight.”

WHAT’S NEXT
The fate of the greenbelt depends on decisions being made around the region every day.

A decision by one county’s Board of Supervisors could decide the future of groundwater supplies for thousands of people. Building on wetlands in another county could release tons of carbon, contributing to climate change. Ballot measures from city to city across the region can allow sprawl to chip away at our farms and ranches. Greenbelt Alliance is constantly tracking and guiding decisions that will threaten or protect our vital lands. The coming year will bring major battles across the region about where and how development should happen. We will be on the front lines to make sure the right development happens in the right places—not on our greenbelt.
NORTH BAY FIRES
RESILIENCE, RECOVERY, & REBUILDING

Only a few months have passed since fire devastated the North Bay. Yet the resilience of North Bay counties is on display as recovery progresses. The natural landscapes that were charred by flames are being reborn, and the communities that were devastated are taking steps to rebuild. There are a lot of questions when it comes to rebuilding and a myriad of possible answers. North Bay communities will be shaped for decades by the rebuilding decisions that will be made in the months and years ahead.

REBUILDING AND THINKING AHEAD
The communities of the North Bay can rebuild and, in doing so, become even stronger in the future. The North Bay has been a leader—for the Bay Area, California, and the nation—in establishing urban growth boundaries (UGBs) that clearly define where growth should and should not occur. By respecting these boundaries during rebuilding, sprawl can be prevented from encroaching deeper into fire-prone lands and people can be kept out of harm’s way. By building new homes in places like along the new Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) line, the housing needs of some of those displaced by the fires, as well as people who have long struggled with the North Bay’s housing shortage, can be addressed in an environmentally responsible fashion.

WHAT’S NEXT
Well into 2018, North Bay residents and leaders will still be focused on rebuilding and getting people and communities back on their feet. But 2018 will also be the year in which opportunities will be emerging to make the cities and towns more sustainable and resilient in the wake of the fires. For example, an update of the Sonoma County General Plan is on the horizon. This General Plan update is an ideal moment for Sonoma County to consider how to manage growth in a future climate that will be even more prone to wildfires.
OUR IMPACT

Local North Bay governments have worked quickly to establish rebuilding and recovery plans. At Greenbelt Alliance, we too are acting fast to help city and county officials make decisions with future fires, growth, and the effects of climate change in mind. However, across the North Bay, almost 8,900 homes and other structures burned. The process of replacing what was lost will be a marathon, not a sprint. Greenbelt Alliance will be there for the long haul to ensure that planning for the future of the North Bay is well thought out and informed by community leaders, residents, and experts. We will advocate for rebuilding not only quickly, but also sustainably, in the right places, and in ways that benefit North Bay residents from across the income spectrum.
The Bay Area has boomed in recent years, but many communities have struggled to keep up with the pace of growth. The crisis of housing affordability we face as a result is unlike any we have seen before; the need to build new homes that people can afford near jobs, transit, and services is dire. The newly updated Plan Bay Area 2040, which Greenbelt Alliance played a leading role in shaping, calls for 80% of new homes and more than half of all new jobs to be located near transit. Having a solid plan for how the region should grow is essential, but it is only one step. It is also critical to act at the local level, another area where Greenbelt Alliance is a leader. The recent approval of the North Bayshore Precise Plan in Mountain View is a prime example of how we’re making the right growth happen in the right places around the Bay Area.
OUR IMPACT
The victory in North Bayshore was nearly 10 years in the making. It all started in 2008, when Mountain View set out to update their General Plan. We immediately sought out community leaders and housing advocates to be our allies in Mountain View. By offering training, guidance, and support, we helped them build a vibrant community of activists. Although the 2012 Mountain View General Plan included no housing in North Bayshore, we and our Mountain View partners continued to rally support for more homes until the City of Mountain View ultimately became a leader in addressing the Bay Area’s housing challenge.

WHAT NORTH BAYSHORE MEANS FOR THE BAY AREA
The 9,850 homes planned for in the North Bayshore Precise Plan—20% of which will be reserved for low- and moderate-income residents—are a big win in easing the region’s housing affordability crisis and cutting the brutal commutes on our clogged freeways. The plan will also support the local economy by placing people within walking distance of Mountain View’s shops and services and away from threatened farmland and wildlife habitat.

The transformation of this 650-acre expanse of offices and parking lots into a vibrant community will serve as a shining example for others to follow around the Bay Area.

WHAT’S NEXT
With the North Bayshore plan for sustainable and equitable growth in place, the next step is to move more local plans for development like this forward. Plan Bay Area 2040 showed that all of our region’s population growth could be contained within existing urban boundaries; there is no excuse to sprawl out onto greenbelt lands, pushing people farther and farther from jobs and services. We’ll continue making Plan Bay Area a reality across the region—ensuring that opportunities like North Bayshore don’t go to waste.

NORTH BAYSHORE PRECISE PLAN AT-A-GLANCE

9,850 HOMES PLANNED FOR IN THE NORTH BAYSHORE PRECISE PLAN

20% DEDICATED TO LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME RESIDENTS
This year the tide in Coyote Valley has begun to turn from pro-sprawl development to conservation. With leadership and support from our partners at the Committee for Green Foothills, we worked nonstop to defeat a proposed warehouse development on a 30-acre area now known as Fisher Flats. Ultimately, our advocacy helped convince the property owner to sell this valuable land for conservation purposes rather than pursue sprawl development plans. Peninsula Open Space Trust acquired Fisher Flats along with the 63-acre Ramke property. These acquisitions are just one example of how Greenbelt Alliance’s advocacy can result in permanent protection of critical lands in Coyote Valley.

WHY PRESERVING COYOTE VALLEY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE BAY AREA

The land in the valley’s north is particularly rare and valuable. “It’s been called Coyote for thousands of years,” says Valentin Lopez, chair of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. The valley was once part of a vast and thriving Native American region, and at its heart was a village site called Matalan—or Coyote. The Tribal Band and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe share Coyote Valley as ancestral lands. They seek to restore it and re-establish wildlife, grow native plants, and teach people the values and the stories of this unique place.

Its wildlife corridors, agriculture, and recreation value are a few more reasons Coyote Valley must be preserved. The land is home not only to coyotes, but also to birds, bobcats, and foxes, and in the future, many hope, tule elk will return to the area. Coyote Valley is also hugely important to Silicon Valley’s groundwater. It is the largest undeveloped landscape overlaying Silicon Valley’s groundwater aquifer, and it serves to mitigate flooding.

This is a one-of-a-kind landscape in the Bay Area, making it critical to our environment, our economy, our history, and our future.

WHAT’S NEXT

Unfortunately, San Jose’s long-term plans call for the northern portion of Coyote Valley—the most important in terms of water resources and wildlife—to be developed. Greenbelt Alliance and our partners will continue to work with the community and leaders to ensure that the City recognizes how important Coyote Valley’s environmental services, wildlife habitat, and agricultural abundance are to the Bay Area. We will encourage the City to make decisions to protect Coyote Valley and integrate it into San Jose’s broader vision of environmental sustainability.
OUR IMPACT
Greenbelt Alliance’s work over many decades to oppose development proposals in Coyote Valley has made possible the victories that are emerging today. It is because of our advocacy and collaboration with partners that Coyote Valley is there to preserve.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Fiscal Year: October 2016 to September 2017

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

- Individual Contributions: $95,481
- Major Donors and Events: $682,469
- Corporations: $94,151
- Foundations: $1,207,670
- Contracts and Fees: $143,924
- Investment Income: $189,566
- Dedicated Donations: $43,488
- SF Housing Action Coalition Donations: $469,594

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE: $2,926,343

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

- Greenbelt Alliance Programs: $1,385,290
- SF Housing Action Coalition Programs: $480,771

Total Program Services: $1,866,061

SUPPORTING SERVICES

- Administration: $217,175
- Fundraising: $540,873

Total Supporting Services: $758,048

TOTAL EXPENSES: $2,624,109

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of September 30, 2017

ASSETS

- Current: $1,991,052
- Endowment: $1,717,649
- Other Assets: $28,816

TOTAL ASSETS: $3,737,517

LIABILITIES: $227,117

NET ASSETS: $3,510,400
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, & VOLUNTEERS

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Hana Beach
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Teri Shore
Regional Director, North Bay
Sasha Torres
Executive Assistant & Office Manager
Mattie Vukmir
Advancement Assistant
FARMS AND RANCHES FOREVER FEST 2017

(above)

Last May, we returned to the historic Ramp Restaurant in San Francisco’s Mission Bay for our second Farms and Ranches Forever Fest. With the iconic waterfront as a backdrop and margaritas in hand, Greenbelt Alliance supporters enjoyed an evening of al fresco dining and comfortable camaraderie. The vibrant spirit helped enliven the auction, which, in a fitting tribute to our former Board Chair, the late John Chapman, raised nearly $15,000 to support Greenbelt Alliance’s work to promote Bay Area agriculture. Our sincerest gratitude to all of our donors who made the night possible and who continue to help us protect the Bay Area’s working lands. Learn more about our farms and ranches work at greenbelt.org/local-farms-and-ranches.
JOIN US FOR SAVOR THE GREENBELT IN 2018
at the world-renowned Fairmont San Francisco

For sponsorship information, visit greenbelt.org/savor-the-greenbelt
or call 415.543.6771 x325.

SAVOR THE GREENBELT 2017
(left, right)
On October 3, 2017, nearly 250 friends of
Greenbelt Alliance joined us at the Fairmont
San Francisco for our annual Savor the
Greenbelt benefit. The record-breaking crowd
gathered for wine and hors d’oeuvres in the
rooftop gardens, before enjoying a menu
designed by Executive Chef, Oscar Gonzalez.
Open space conservation and smart growth
leader, Linda Jo Fitz, and Megan Medeiros,
Executive Director of Committee for Green
Foothills, received the second annual
Greenbelt Alliance Champion Awards. Thank
you to our guests, donors, and sponsors, for
making this year an unprecedented success.

See all of our Savor the Greenbelt sponsors on page 22.

ANNUAL SONOMA DINNER
The Greenbelt Alliance Sonoma Leadership Council and their guests came together
just south of Eldridge to celebrate our continued success in keeping Sonoma green.
Hosts JaMel and Tom Perkins shared their home, as guests enjoyed an evening of
live music, farm-to-table dining, and lively conversation about the future of Sonoma
County. The event raised funds to help Greenbelt Alliance ensure that the County’s
updated General Plan includes robust protections for the Sonoma greenbelt.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

$200,000 and above
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation*

$100,000-$199,000
Anonymous* (2)
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Silicon Valley Community Foundation**

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John Sutter
Porter E. and Helenmae Thompson Foundation

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Brisbane Baylands
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Carmel Partners
Climate Ride
craigslist Charitable Fund
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Linda Dodwell
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The San Francisco Foundation
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Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
John Sutter
Porter E. & Helenmae Thompson Foundation
Laney and Pasha Thornton
Jack Weeden

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE: LUNCHEON WITH DAVID CHIU

Greenbelt Alliance’s Leadership Circle gathered for an exclusive luncheon with California State Assemblymember David Chiu. Conversation centered on State legislation approved in 2017 related to growth and open space conservation and their potential impact on the Bay Area.

For information on becoming a member of the Leadership Circle, contact us at 415-543-6771 x325 or info@greenbelt.org.
WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for being a part of the Greenbelt Alliance community. From donating stock, to setting up planned gifts, to making monthly contributions, your support keeps our greenbelt lands free from sprawl development and creates thriving neighborhoods in our cities and towns. Together, we’re creating a prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive Bay Area. Learn about the many ways you can support Greenbelt Alliance.

greenbelt.org/ways-to-give
SAVOR THE GREENBELT
Savor the Greenbelt is our annual fundraising event to support Greenbelt Alliance’s programs.

Event Co-Chairs
Craig Hartman and Jan O’Brien
Jeffrey Heller and Lise Jeantet

Lead Sponsor: $25,000
Google

Local Food Champions: $10,000
Nancy Adler and Arnold Milstein
Elliott Evers
Linda Jo Fitz
Craig Hartman and Jan O’Brien
Jeffrey Heller and Lise Jeantet
Thomas and JaMel Perkins
Laney and Pasha Thornton

Urban Advocates: $7,500
Brisbane Baylands

Vineyard Patrons: $5,000
Aspiriant
W. Anderson and Sara Barnes
Carmel Partners
Lynne Deegan-McGraw
Maximus Real Estate Partners
Piscas Foundation
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Open Space Sponsors: $2,500
Bay Area Rapid Transit District
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