National *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals

Headline Title (2-5 words): San Francisco Conservation Lands Network

Brief Summary (Abstract): The Upland Habitat Goals project is a science-based process using existing data supplemented by expert opinion to identify a Conservation Lands Network for biodiversity preservation to inform conservation investments. The final report recommends the types, amounts and distribution of habitats, linkages, compatible uses and the ecological processes needed to sustain diversity. Other products include an online decision support tool and access to a GIS database.

Project Location: Nine-County San Francisco Bay Area, California

Partners: Partners includes a Steering Committee consisting of 23 agencies and partner-based organizations including: California State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, UC Davis, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, California Native Plant Society, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, California Rangeland Trust, The Nature Conservancy, San Francisco Estuary Institute, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Sonoma Land Trust, National Parks Service, Sonoma County Water Agency, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Point Blue Conservation Science, California State Parks, Save the Redwoods League, Midpeninsula Open Space Trust, Marin County Open Space Trust, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation District, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and East Bay Regional Parks District.

Background: The San Francisco Bay Area is known for harboring ecosystems of high endemism and biodiversity. These ecosystems are now facing unprecedented threats from climate change and poorly planned development. For the Bay Area, most climate models predict a more intense dry season with higher temperatures and reduced summer stream flow. To conserve this unique biodiversity, there needs to be a large network of interconnected habitat and ecological processes maintained by the conservation community.

Project Goals: The Conservation Lands Network is a five-year science-based study by over 125 organizations and individuals tasked to identify the most essential lands needed to sustain biological diversity in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The project goals are to complete a scientifically credible conservation plan and create application tools that are readily accessible and easy to use by conservation practitioners, land use planners, policymakers and funders.

Strategy Goals Implemented:
Action 1.1.1: Identify and map high priority areas for conservation using information such as species distributions (current and projected), habitat classification, land cover, and geophysical settings (including areas of rapid change and slow change).

Action 1.1.3: Assess the potential of species to shift ranges, and prioritize conservation efforts taking into account range shifts and accounting for ecosystem functions and existing and future physical barriers.

Action 1.1.4: Establish and maintain a comprehensive, inter-jurisdictional inventory of current conservation areas and candidate high priority conservation areas in order to coordinate future conservation efforts.

Action 1.1.5: Re-prioritize conservation targets of existing land and water conservation programs in light of areas identified in 1.1.1 and listed in 1.1.4 and 1.4.2.

Action 1.4.1: Identify species with special connectivity needs (i.e., those that are area-limited, resource-limited, dispersal-limited, or process-limited).

Action 1.4.2: Assess and prioritize critical connectivity gaps and needs across current conservation areas, including areas likely to serve as refugia in a changing climate.

Climate Impacts Addressed: Impacts on conservation targets including vegetation types, riparian habitat, mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates is addressed.

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): Reports, maps and data are available and completed at www.bayarealands.org. Current focus is partner, land and natural resource manager outreach. Next steps include a progress report to measure progress toward implementing the Conservation Lands Network.

Project Outcomes: The completed Conservation Lands Network includes a report detailing conservation recommendations for nearly 500 plants, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates and the habitat types needed to support these targets. The report also analyzes ecosystem processes including climate change, connectivity, floods, drought, nitrogen deposition, invasive plants and animals, grazing, disease, ecological succession and fire in relation to the conservation targets.

Maps and data are available for vegetation types, land use, roads, jurisdictional boundaries, geology and many other regional features. An interactive map explorer is also available to visualize the complex relationship between areas.

Funding Sources: California Landscape Conservation Cooperative, California Coastal and Marine Initiative of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, California Natural Resources Agency, California State Coastal Conservancy, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund and US Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program at San Francisco Bay.

Photos/Attachments: www.bayarealands.org

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA UPLAND HABITAT GOALS PROJECT

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Conservation Lands Network