

ABAG FUNDING E-MAIL TO THE CITY

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Cc: Mark Thomson <thomsma@pacbell.net>

Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2015 9:59 AM

Subject: Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) program for Priority Conservation Area (PCA) designation and OBAG grant for Pine Meadow

In February, we sent you information on the ABAG Priority Conservation Area (PCA) program that allows a community to then apply for OBAG grants. We would like to update the information we have gathered and follow up on actions the City has taken on this program. We believe PCA designation is one avenue that can be pursued to find funding for the purchase of the Pine Meadow Permanent Open Space/Recreation site.

The ABAG website

(http://abag.ca.gov/priority/conservation/designations_2015.html) contains a great deal of data. The two criteria pages (http://abag.ca.gov/priority/conservation/designations_2015.html and http://abag.ca.gov/priority/conservation/table2_2015.html) detail the categories that allow Pine Meadow to qualify.

Additionally, JoAnna Bullock, Senior Regional Planner, joannab@abag.ca.gov, 510-464-7968, has been very helpful and informative, and is available to assist in the PCA and OBAG process.

Information to note:

1. The PCA application is relatively easy to fill out, and the deadline of May 31 is expandable. Getting an application in by the end of June should be acceptable to have it considered.
2. The recent round of \$10 million in funding has closed. New funding from the next round of OBAG grants will be based on PCA applications being received now.
3. PCA designation in no way ties the City's hands in making land use decisions on the property. The City can still decide to rezone the land for housing, if it wants.
4. PCA designation in no way ties the landowners' hands in making decisions on the property.
5. Landowner concurrence is not necessary for the City to apply.

6. Of the four site designations (Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, Urban Greening and Regional Recreation), probably the recreation category fits best, and underscoring the regional use of the site (which recreation would do) is important. We can assist with surveys to underscore the regional use of our parks and open space, if you want.

7. Not having a definite end use for the property would not necessarily block it from consideration.

8. Having the property in a Specific Plan is helpful, as Pine Meadow is.

Our research indicates this is one viable avenue to pursue for partial funding for the purchase of Pine Meadow for open space/parkland use. Martinez does not appear to have any PCAs in place now, but please let us know how we can help in putting an application together for Pine Meadow.

Also, if we can help with further data acquisition, surveys, or other activities, we are ready to do so. Just contact us.

We are forwarding this information to the Alhambra Hills advocates, as it may well be a pertinent program for that open space too.

We look forward to hearing back on actions taken and any ways we can be of help.

Thank you.

Tim Platt
Friends of Pine Meadow