Welcome (Director Shirlee Zane)
Overview of Ag + Open Space and the Vital Lands Initiative (Karen Gaffney)
Community Listening Session (Facilitated by Amy Ricard)
Next Steps (Amy Ricard)
Foundation + Guiding Policies

• Visionary Founders & Voters of Sonoma County
• Enabling Legislation: Measures A, C & F
  • Established a ¼ cent sales tax
  • Extended in 2006
• Implements Sonoma County General Plan
Foundation + Guiding Policies

• Expenditure Plan (see page 79)
  ✓ Defines the legal use of funds
  ✓ Primary focus on protecting the land
  ✓ Primarily by purchasing development rights
Foundation + Guiding Policies

Integrates & Updates Previous Plans

✓ Acquisition Plan 2006
✓ Strategic Plan 2009
✓ Fee Lands Strategy

Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve
The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District permanently protects the diverse agricultural, natural resource, and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations.
How We Work - Conservation Easements

• Voluntary/ willing landowners
• Purchase development rights
• Permanent protection
• Community benefits

Dashiell Ranch
Lake Sonoma Watershed Cooley Ranch Conservation Easement

Lake Sonoma Recreation Area

Before Condition:
- 56 home sites

After Condition:
- 3 home sites

Natural Areas

Agricultural Areas

Riparian Protection
109,000 Acres

234 Easements

Quailbrook Ranch
How We Work - Fee Lands

- Future parks and preserves
- Small scale agriculture
- Greenbelts
- Cost of fee vs. easements
20
Fee properties

5,000
Acres

Cresta-McCullough
(Mark West)
Properties
How We Work – Matching Grant Program

- Urban Setting
- Partnerships
- Leverage sales tax

Prince Memorial Greenway and Prince Gateway Park
52 projects accepted into the Matching Grant Program

426 acres Matching Grant Program has opened to the public
Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve

Scenic Resources

Natural Resources

Agriculture

Recreation
Over 114,000 Acres Protected Forever
Over 10% of Sonoma County!
Public Access since 1990

✓ 12,000 acres open for public recreation
✓ 7,000 acres added to existing State and Regional Parks
✓ 32 new parks, preserves, and public spaces created
Public Access: In Progress

- Calabazas Creek (1300 acres)
- Carrington Coast Ranch (300 acres)
- Mark West Properties (1200 acres)
- Wright Hill Ranch (1200 acres)
31,528 Acres of grazing land
18,658 Acres of protected groundwater basins or natural recharge areas
Properties producing local food and wine
33,579 Acres of redwood forest
Participants in educational programs and outings in 2016: 4,892
76 Miles of salmon streams
5,832 Acres habitat for threatened and endangered plants & animals
11,582 Acres of coastal lands protected
2,797 Acres of wetlands
How We Work - Perpetuity

Forever is a long time...
Building on a foundation of success.
## Vital Lands Initiative - Process

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- **Best available science & data**
- **Robust community engagement process**
- **Hundreds of hours spent with experts**
- **4000+ comments**
Vital Lands Initiative - Process

• Preliminary draft out for review

• Organized into Goals, Objectives, & Strategies

**Goal** The primary outcomes toward which land conservation efforts and actions are directed.

**Objective** Measurable and specific steps to take to achieve the goals.

**Strategy** Strategies are the “hows” – tools or approaches to achieve a particular objective.
Vital Lands Initiative - Plan Overview

**Agriculture**
Protect lands that support diverse and productive agriculture in Sonoma County.

**Community Open Space**
Protect and enhance open space and publicly accessible lands in and near Sonoma County cities and communities.

**Greenbelts**
Protect open lands that surround and differentiate the County’s urban areas.

**Natural Resources**
Protect natural lands and aquatic habitats that support plants, wildlife, biodiversity, water resources and other human benefits in Sonoma County.

**Recreation and Public Access**
Ensure that the public has a range of opportunities to experience Ag + Open Space-protected lands.

**Scenic Views**
Protect lands that contribute to the unique scenic character of Sonoma County.
Vital Lands Initiative - Example

**Goal** Protect lands that support diverse and productive agriculture in Sonoma County.

**Objective** Ensure that Ag + Open Space-protected agricultural lands remain in agriculture.

**Strategy** Evaluate and test new tools for effective and appropriate agricultural land conservation, including affirmative easements, lease to own, auctions, payments over time, right of first refusal, and connecting landowners with succession/estate planning experts.
Plan also includes:

✓ Background & history
✓ Current state & trends
✓ Performance indicators
✓ Implementation framework
Vital Lands Initiative - Listening Session

• We request feedback on the preliminary draft

• Many methods for additional input
  ✓ Upcoming public meetings
  ✓ Website, email, social media, or give us a call!

• Three rounds for input

• Ground rules

• We want to hear from everyone
Vital Lands Initiative - Listening Session

• Round One: Specific comments/ suggestions about the document (page number please)

• Round Two: General comments about the document (for example: readability or approach)

• Round Three: All other questions or comments, time permitting
Vital Lands Initiative - Next Steps

• Additional public meetings
  Sat, Mar 17 – Community Church of Sebastopol | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
  Mon, Mar 19 – Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
  Tues, Mar 20 – Bodega Bay Grange | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
  Wed, Mar 21 – Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
  Thurs, Mar 22 – Finley Community Center, Person Senior Wing | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
  Mon, Mar 26 – Sea Ranch – Del Mar Center Hall | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
  Wed, Mar 28 – Healdsburg Villa Chanticleer | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
  Thurs, Mar 29 – Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
  Sat, Mar 31 – Cloverdale Veterans Memorial Building | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

• Draft to Board in May

• Final to Board this summer
Matching Grant Program

• Application period open until 4/30/18
• $4 million available
• Eligible projects that aid in rebuilding and recovery in fire-affected areas may be given preference
• Flyers on the sign-in table
THANK YOU!