



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

June 25, 2026 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PLEASE CALL IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

The June Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee meeting will be held in person at Ag + Open Space's office located at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA. The public may also participate virtually through Zoom.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the two following methods:

1. **Zoom:** Join the Zoom meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking:
<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/95865054803?pwd=6kK8lsDW02YfOtu6YOzFMFSwfDH2kQ.jyJdob-eS3CqTy4C>

If you have the Zoom app or web client, join the meeting using the Password: 628163

Call-in and listen to the meeting: Dial +1 669 900 9128 | Enter Webinar ID: 958 6505 4803

2. **In Person:** Members of the public may attend in person at Ag + Open Space's office at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA in the large conference room.

PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING: You may email public comment to aos-adminaide@sonoma-county.org. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all Committee Members and read aloud for the benefit of the public. Please include your name and the relevant agenda item number to which your comment refers. In addition, if you have joined as a member of the public through the Zoom link or by calling in, there will be specific points throughout the meeting during which live public comment may be made via Zoom and phone.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative format to assist you in observing and commenting on this meeting, please contact the advisory clerk by email to aos-adminaide@sonoma-county.org by 12pm Wednesday, June 24, 2026 to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

Comments on items not listed on the agenda. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person/item.

3. Correspondence / Communications

Correspondence can email aos-adminaide@sonoma-county.org.

4. Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2026

Attachment A

ACTION ITEM

5. Ag Advisory Subcommittee Report Out

6. General Manager's Report

Misti Arias, General Manager

7. Senate Bill 707 – Updated public meeting and teleconference requirements **ACTION ITEM**

Aldo Mercado, County Counsel

California Senate Bill (SB) 707 is a legislative update to the Ralph M. Brown Act that modernizes local government public meeting and teleconferencing rules. Introduced January 1, 2026, part of the updates include potentially permanent teleconferencing, disruptor muting, social media clarification, and public comment extension.

Action: The Committee will vote to approve applying these new guidelines to the Advisory Committee.

8. Overview of Recent Polling Results **Attachment B**

DISCUSSION ITEM

Emily Goodman, Senior Principal, EMC Research Inc.

Ag + Open Space conducted preliminary polling to understand Sonoma County voters' awareness, priorities, and opinions regarding the agency and its mission, to help refine communications, and to examine current attitudes about taxes as they relate to investments in agriculture and open space preservation. The study provided early objective feedback on how voters may respond to a potential measure to reauthorize Sonoma County Ag + Open Space's quarter-cent sales tax but was not designed to provide a comprehensive picture of measure feasibility.

Discussion: The Committee will discuss the results of the poll and provide feedback on subsequent polling and related topics.



9. Ag + Open Space and State Funding Opportunities

Attachment C

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager

Proposition 4 (the Climate Bond Act of 2024), passed by voters in November 2024, authorizes the state to borrow \$10 billion through general obligation bonds. This funding is dedicated to climate resilience, natural resources management, wildfire prevention, and safe drinking water initiatives across California. The question is: how much money is actually available and when, how can it be used, and how can Ag + Open Space access it?

10. Projects in Negotiations

Attachment D

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

11. Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

12. Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2026



SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED MINUTES

747 Mendocino Avenue – Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

March 26, 2026 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ricard Hodges, Ladi Asgill, Thembi Borrás, Paolo Tantarelli, Wendy Eliot, John Shribbs, Alex DeCarli, Marjorie Morgenstern, Don McEnhill, Emily Albert, Brittany Jensen*

*Virtual Attendance under SB 707:

Member Jensen attended the meeting virtually citing SB 707 due to a *contagious illness that prevents member from attending in person*.

STAFF PRESENT:

Misti Arias, General Manager; Aldo Mercado, Deputy County Counsel; Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager; Jennifer Kuzsmar, Acquisition Manager, Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Specialist; Michelle Nozzari, Admin Aide

1. Call to Order

Chair Ladi Asgill called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

2. Public Comment

Chair Asgill opened comments on items not listed on the agenda.

- No public comment

3. Correspondence/Communications

Two pieces of correspondence were received and shared with committee and public.

4. Approval of the Minutes from January 22, 2026.

Chair Asgill called for a roll call vote. The vote to approve minutes passed unanimously.

5. General Managers Report

Misti Arias, General Manager

Chair Asgill opened public comment.

- No public comment

6. Advisory Committee Administration: SB 707

Aldo Mercado, Deputy Counsel

Chair Asgill opened public comment.

- Susan Kirks

7. Saddle Mountain OSP Prescribed Fire, Research, and Workforce Development

Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Specialist

Chair Asgill opened public comment.

- Susan Kirks

8. Acquisition Update

Jennifer Kuszmar, Acquisition Manager

Chair Asgill opened public comment.

- No public comment

9. Projects in Negotiations

Chair Asgill opened public comment.

- No public comment

10. Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

11. Adjournment

Chair Asgill adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

TO: Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM: EMC Research
RE: Key Findings from April 2026 Survey of Voters in Sonoma County
DATE: June 2026

This memo outlines the purpose of the research, key findings from an April 2026 survey of Sonoma County Voters and recommended next steps.

Research Purpose

This research was designed to understand Sonoma County voters' awareness, priorities, and opinions regarding Sonoma County Ag + Open Space and its mission, to help refine general communications, and to examine current attitudes about taxes as they relate to investments in agriculture and open space preservation.

The present study provided preliminary feedback on how voters respond to a potential measure to reauthorize Sonoma County Ag + Open Space's quarter-cent sales tax to continue ongoing operations, but was not designed to provide a comprehensive picture of measure feasibility. Future research is recommended to fully explore the feasibility of a reauthorization measure, and inform decisions such as election timing, and measure content and structure.

Key Findings

- A majority of voters in Sonoma County say things in the County are generally headed in the right direction.
- While cost of living and a lack of affordable housing for all income levels are predominant concerns, most voters also say that loss of farmland and open space, climate change, and drought are serious problems facing the County.
- Sonoma County Ag + Open Space is viewed favorably by voters, especially when they are provided with information about Ag + Open Space's history, purpose and initiatives.
- More than 8 in 10 voters agree that investing in agricultural and natural areas in the County is a good use of tax dollars, and two-thirds trust Ag + Open Space to properly manage tax dollars.
- Protecting drinking water and old-growth redwoods, and reducing local risks of drought, flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat are among voters' top priorities for Sonoma County Ag + Open Space.
- Communications explaining Sonoma County Ag + Open Space's work to safeguard wetlands, local drinking water, and agricultural lands resonate widely.
- Asked at the end of the survey whether they would support a ballot measure to reauthorize the Sonoma County Ag + Open Space's sales tax funding, three quarters indicate that they would.

Recommended Next Steps

Further research is recommended to provide a more comprehensive picture of measure feasibility and exploration of issues such as timing, ballot question wording, voter tax sensitivity, and other factors.

Methodology

Findings are summarized from a scientific survey of 600 voters in Sonoma County conducted by EMC Research. The survey was conducted via a multi-modal methodology, utilizing live telephone interviews and online interviews in response to text and email invitations. Telephone interviews were conducted by professional interviewers, landline and mobile phones included. The survey was offered in English and Spanish. Data are demographically and geographically representative of registered voters in Sonoma County.



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Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Voter Research

Summary of Findings - June 25, 2026

- ▶ Survey of registered voters in the Sonoma County Ag + Open Space District
- ▶ Survey conducted April 19 - 27, 2026 in English and Spanish
- ▶ Mixed mode telephone and web (email-/text-to-web) methodology
 - Phone interviews conducted by trained, professional interviewers; landlines and mobile phones included
 - Email and text invitations were sent with a link to an online survey
- ▶ 600 interviews; overall margin of error ± 4.0 percentage points. A split sample methodology was utilized to test differences in language:
 - Split 1 (n=300; MoE = ± 5.7 percentage points)
 - Split 2 (n=300; MoE = ± 5.7 percentage points)
- ▶ Where applicable, results compared with previous research conducted in Sonoma County.

Please note that due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.

Research Purpose

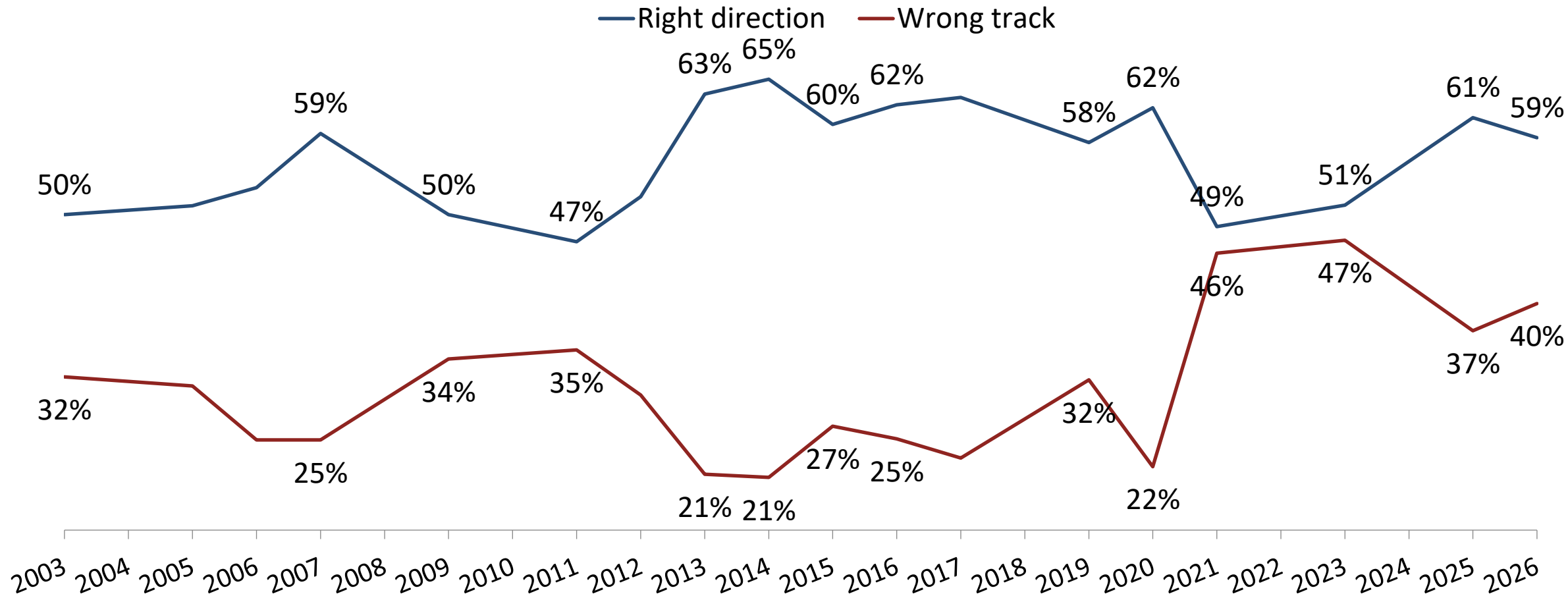
- ▶ This research was designed to understand voters' awareness, priorities, and opinions regarding Sonoma County Ag + Open Space and its mission, to help refine general communications, and to examine current attitudes about taxes as they relate to investments in agriculture and open space preservation.

Key Findings

- ▶ Voters consider affordability concerns to be very serious problems in Sonoma County, but most still say things in the County are generally headed in the right direction.
- ▶ Sonoma County Ag + Open Space is viewed positively by voters, and the majority believe investing in open space is important.
- ▶ Protecting drinking water and old-growth redwoods, and reducing local risks of drought, flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat are among voters' top priorities for Sonoma County Ag + Open Space.
- ▶ Information about the Ag + Open Space's efforts on protecting wildlands, water, and agricultural lands resonates widely.

Direction of the County

The majority feels like things in Sonoma County are headed in the right direction.



Q2. Do you feel that things in Sonoma County are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

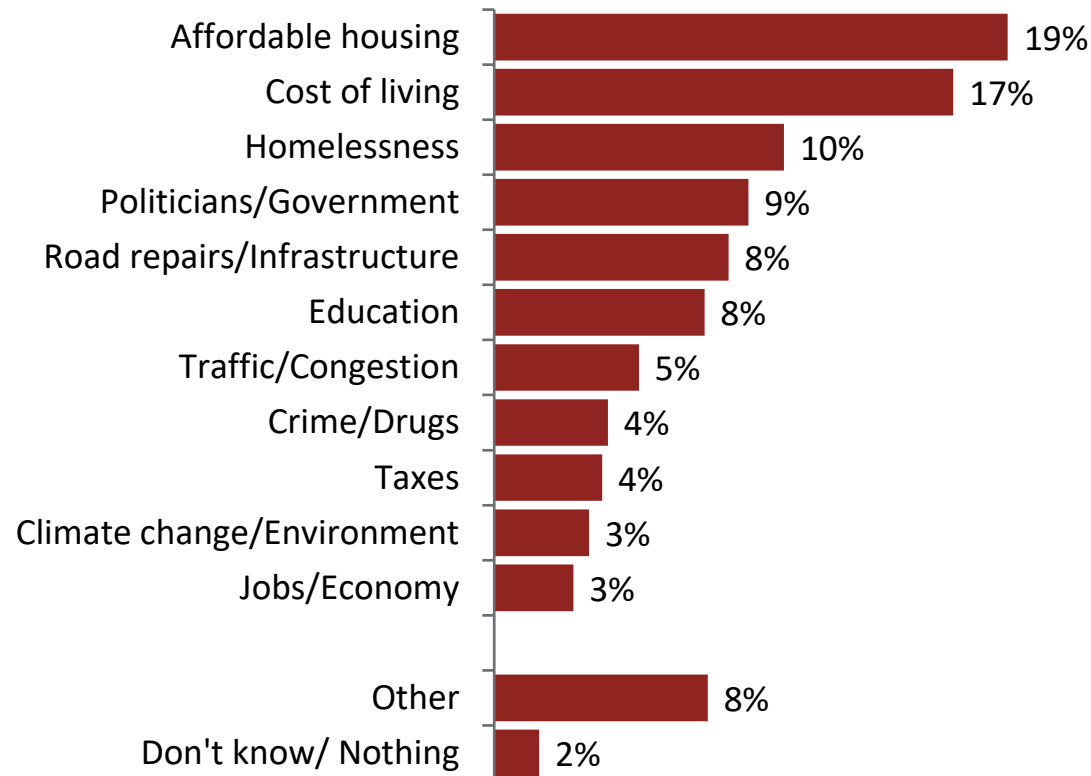
**Data prior to 2026 is from past research conducted in Sonoma County.*
Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Voter Research - Summary | 5

Most Important Problem

Predominant top-of-mind concerns for voters in Sonoma County are around affordability. A very small portion mention climate change or other environmental issues.

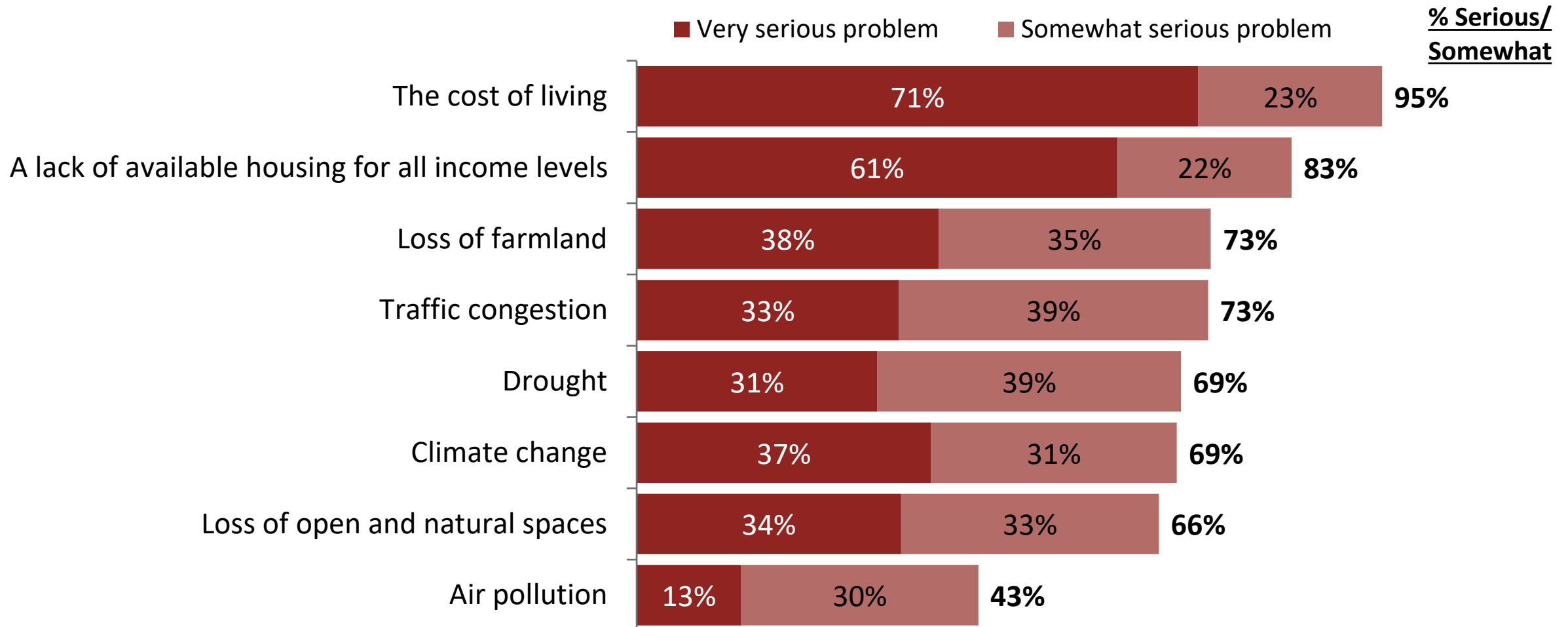
What do you think is the most important problem facing Sonoma County today?

(Open-ended question; verbatim responses coded into categories)



Local Issues

While affordability issues rise to the top of the list, most also say loss of farmland and open space, climate change and drought are serious problems.



Q4.-Q11. Please tell me if you feel each of the following is a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not too serious problem or a not at all serious problem facing Sonoma County.

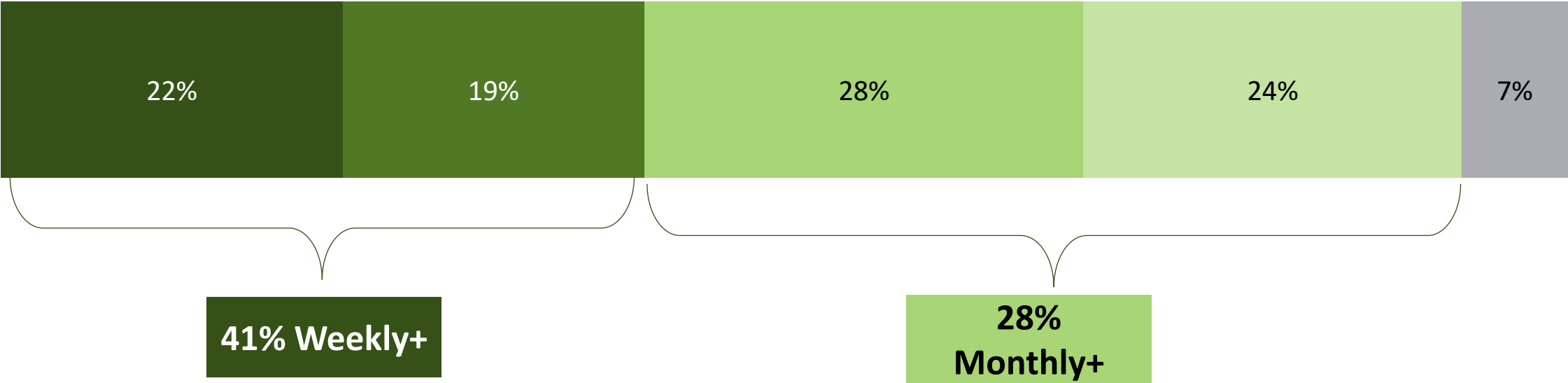
Visit Frequency: Open Space/Parks/Trails



4-in-10 voters visit parks or public open space areas in Sonoma County at least weekly.

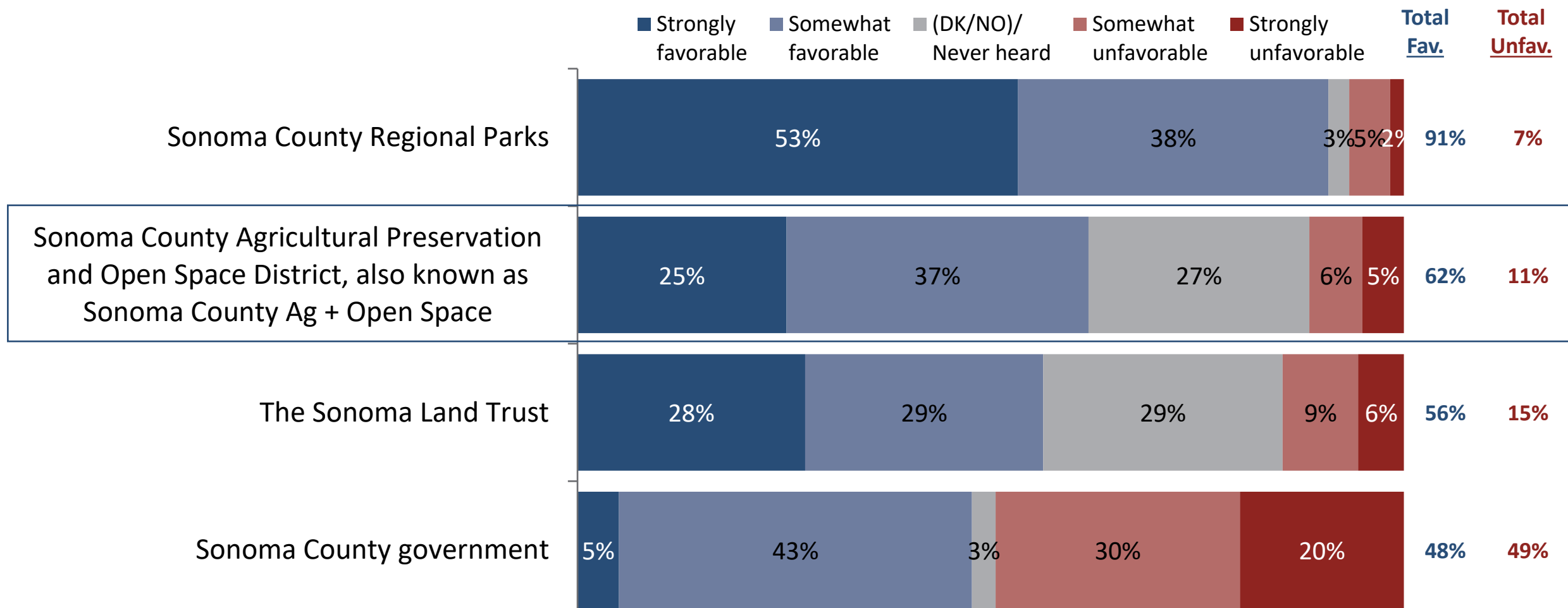
On average, how frequently do you visit public open spaces, parks or trails in Sonoma County?

■ A few times a week ■ About once a week ■ A few times a month ■ A few times a year ■ Rarely/Never/(DK)



Ratings

A majority of voters rate Sonoma Ag + OS favorably, although a quarter have never heard of the District.

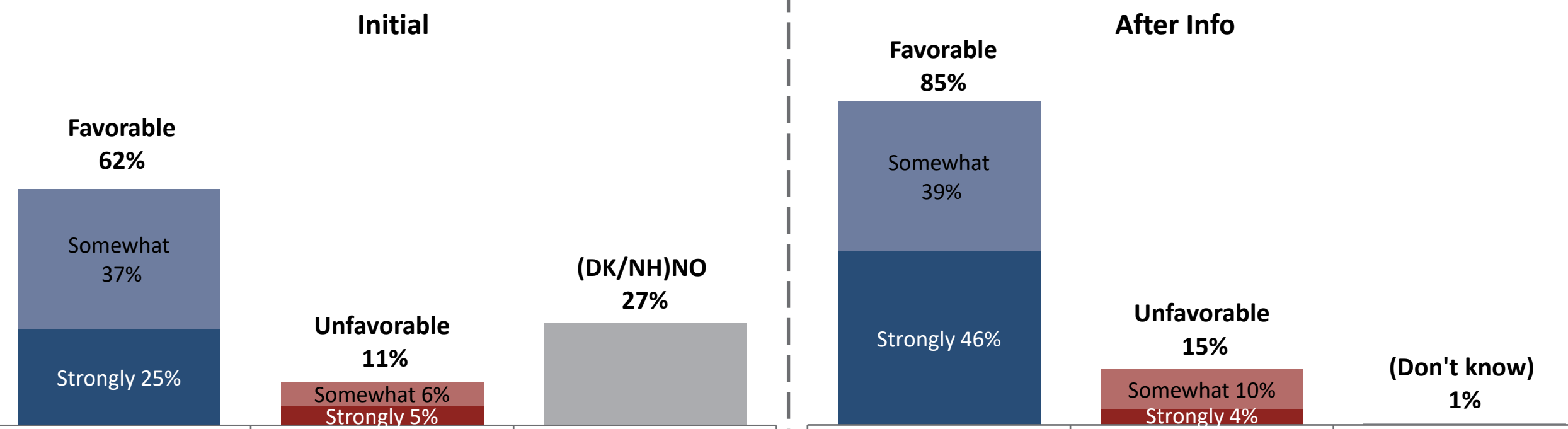


Q12.-Q15. I'm going to read you a list of organizations. Please tell me if you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable opinion of each one. If you have never heard of one, please just say so.

Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Rating After Info

Once voters are introduced to Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, nearly 9-in-10 view it favorably.

In 1990, Sonoma County residents created Sonoma County Ag + Open Space to permanently protect the diverse agricultural, natural resource, and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations. Sonoma County Ag + Open Space works in close collaboration with a variety of agencies that protect agricultural land, greenbelts, recreational areas, water and wildlife in Sonoma County. To date, Ag + Open Space has protected over 127,000 acres of natural and working lands, and it is funded by a voter-approved countywide ¼ cent sales tax, as well as other sources of public funding.

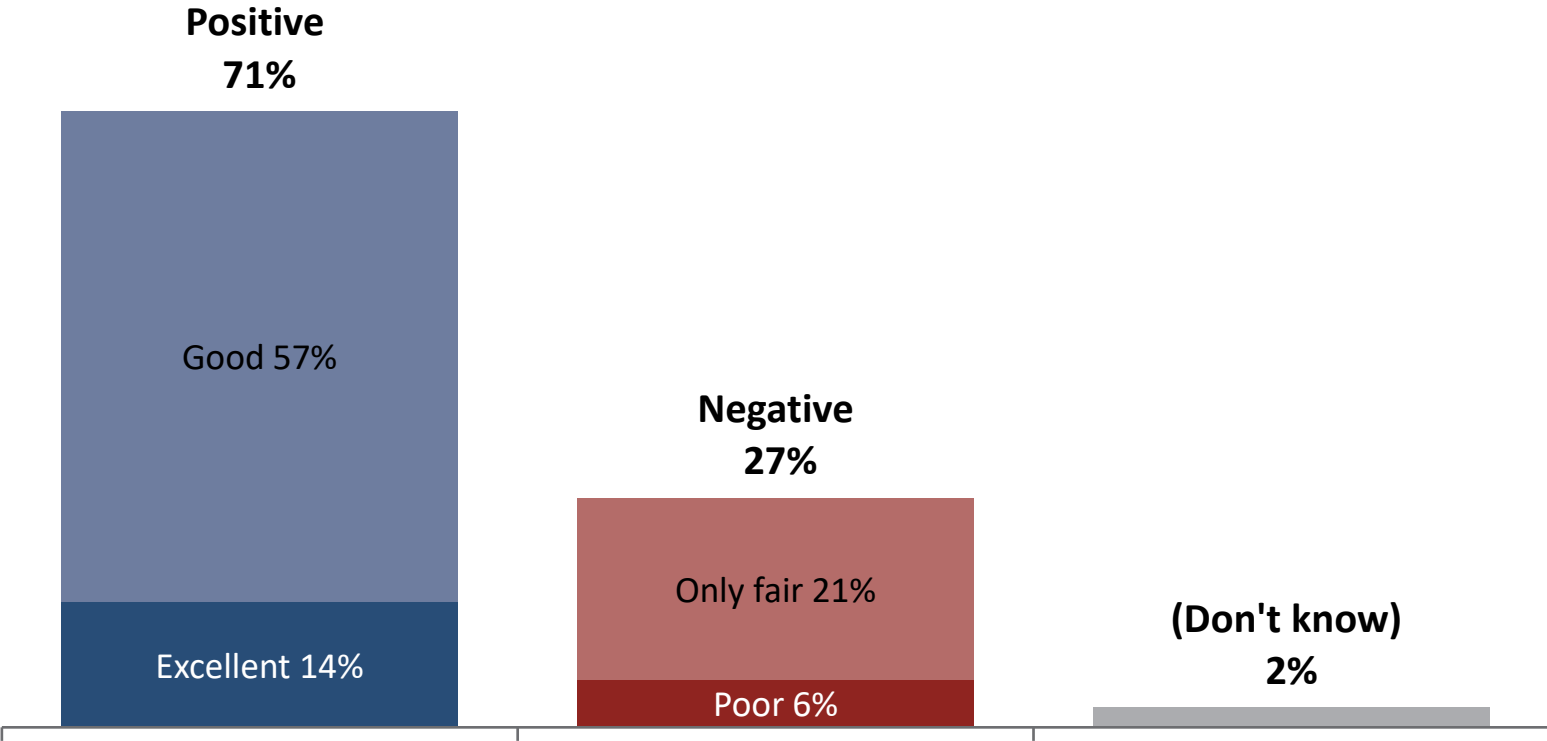


Q16. Now that you've heard more, do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable opinion of Sonoma County Ag + Open Space?

Sonoma County Ag + OS Job Rating

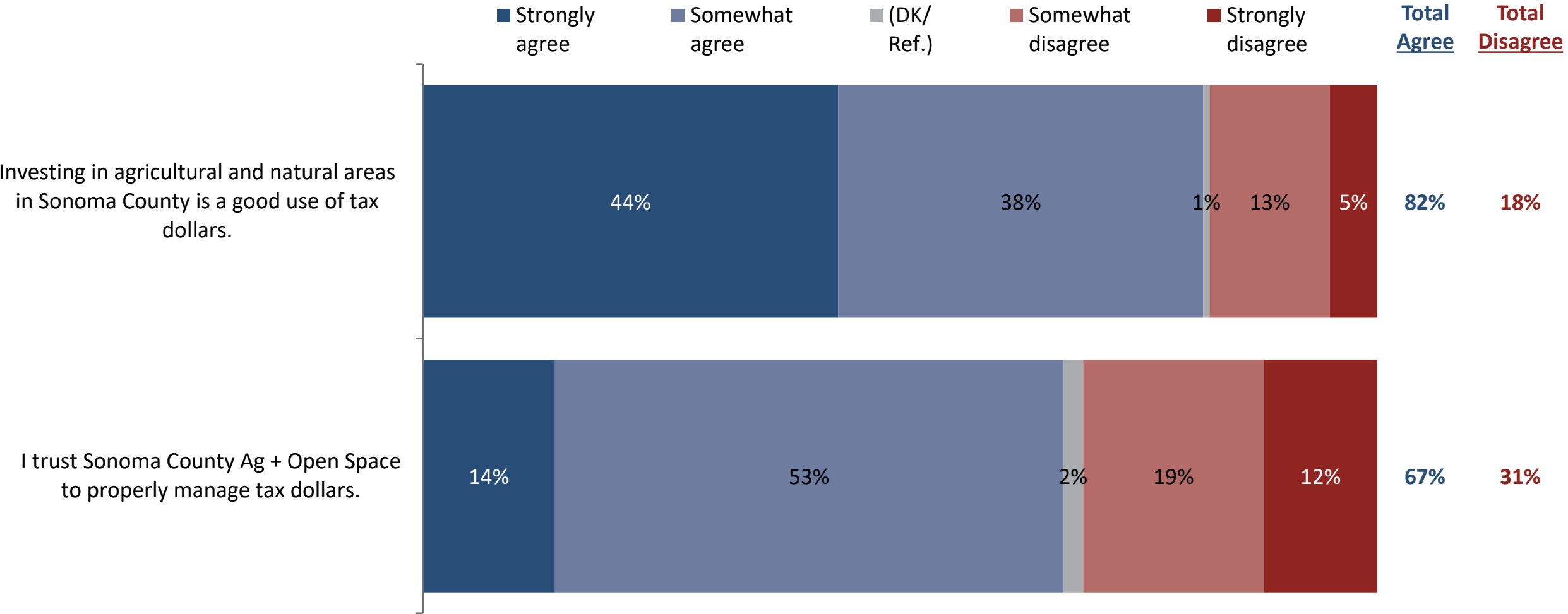
7-in-10 voters rate Sonoma County Ag + Open Space positively on protecting open space lands in Sonoma County.

How would you rate the job Sonoma County Ag + Open Space is doing protecting the county’s agricultural, natural resource, recreational, and scenic open space lands?



Open Space Investment Attitudes

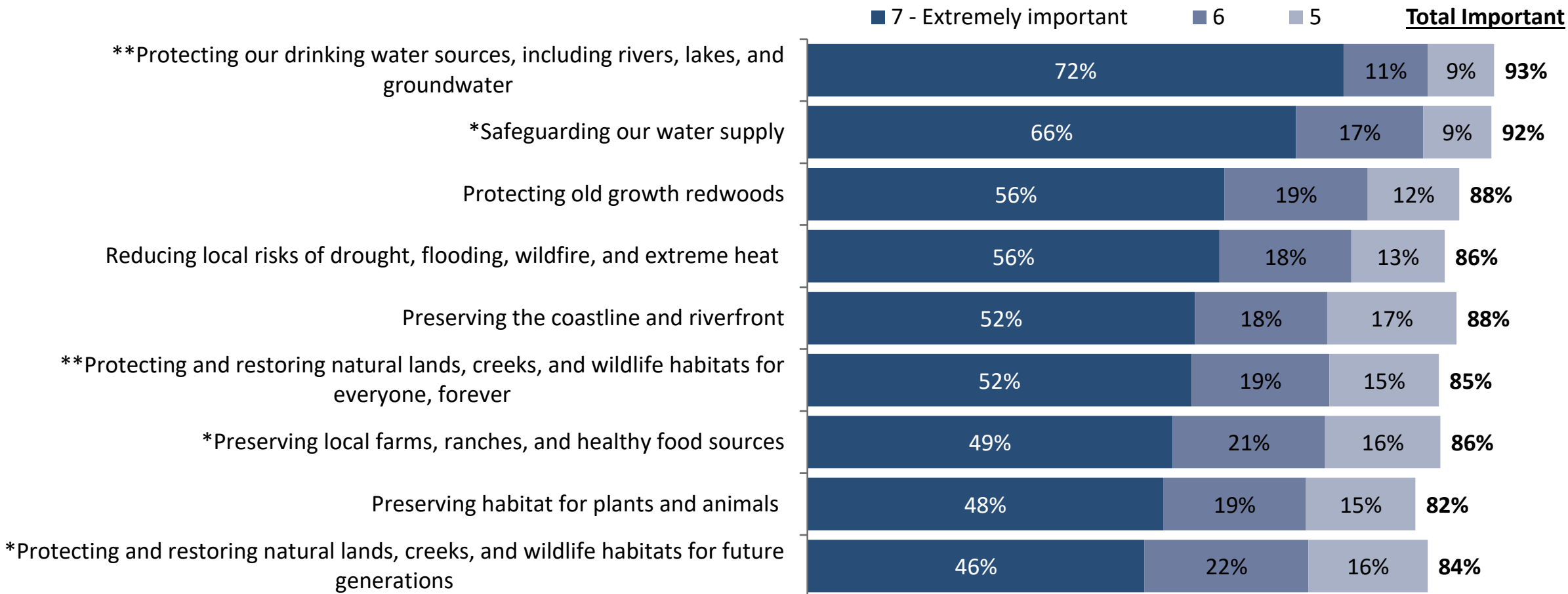
4-in-5 voters agree that investing in agricultural and natural areas in the County is a good use of tax dollars. Trust in Sonoma Ag + Open Space to properly manage tax dollars is also relatively high.



Q18.-Q19. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

Top Priorities

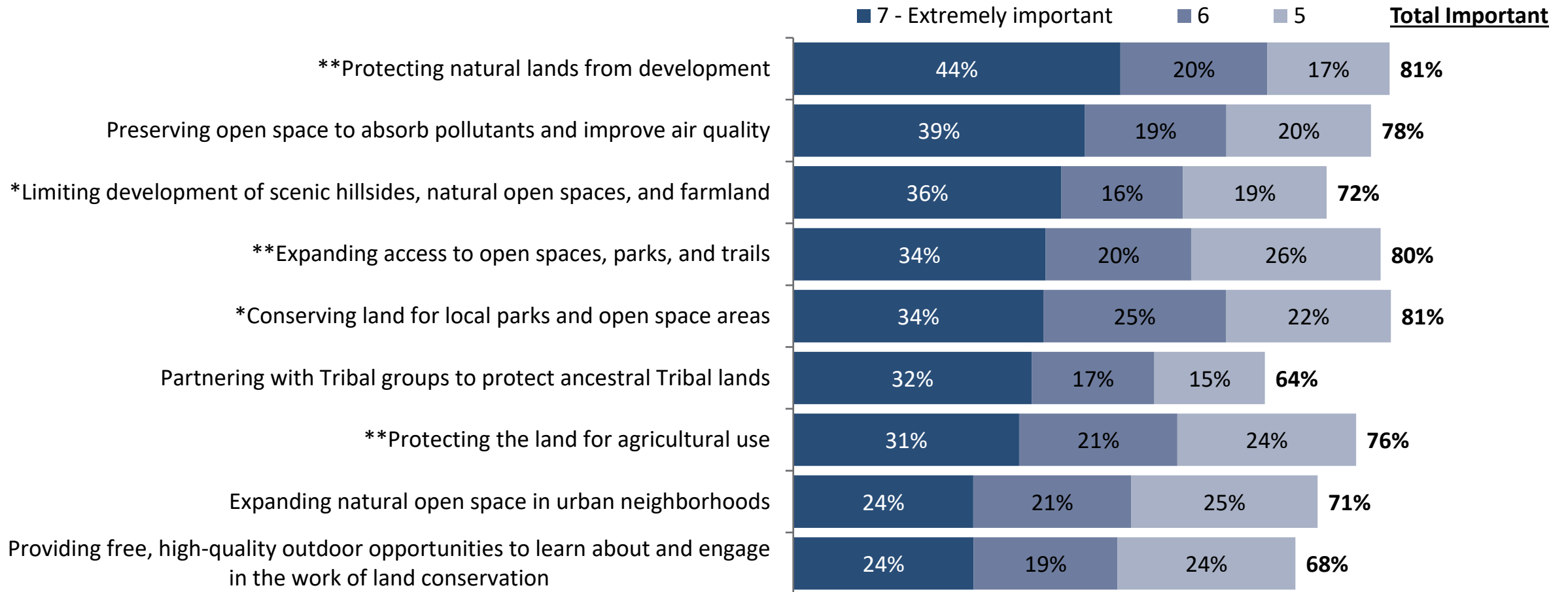
Protecting drinking water, old growth redwoods, and reducing local risks of drought, flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat are top priorities to voters.



NOTE: * Asked among Split A only; 200n; **Asked among Split B only; 200n
Q20.-Q37. I'm going to read you a list of items that your tax dollars help pay for.
After each one, please rate how important that item is to you, using a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means not at all important, and 7 means extremely important.

Priorities (Cont.)

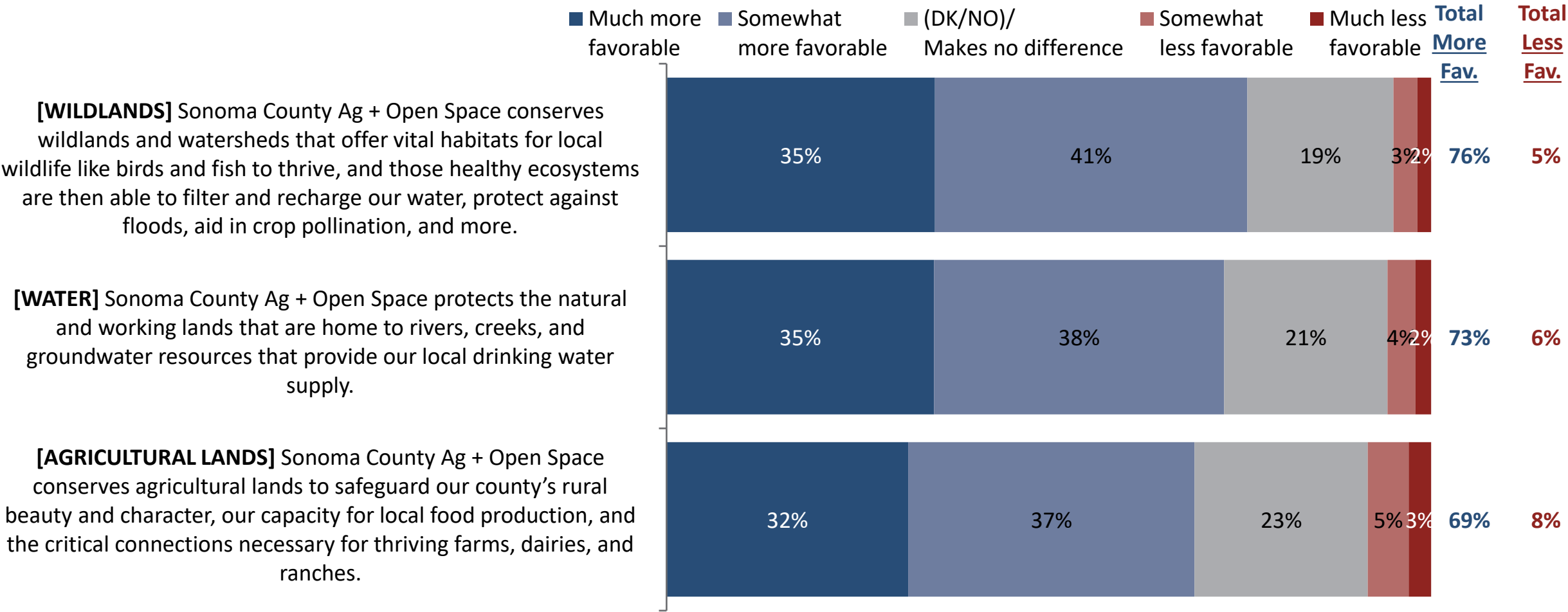
Other items are also important to voters, but less so in intensity.



NOTE: * Asked among Split A only; 200n; **Asked among Split B only; 200n
Q20.-Q37. I'm going to read you a list of items that your tax dollars help pay for.
After each one, please rate how important that item is to you, using a scale of 1 to
7, where 1 means not at all important, and 7 means extremely important.

Additional Information

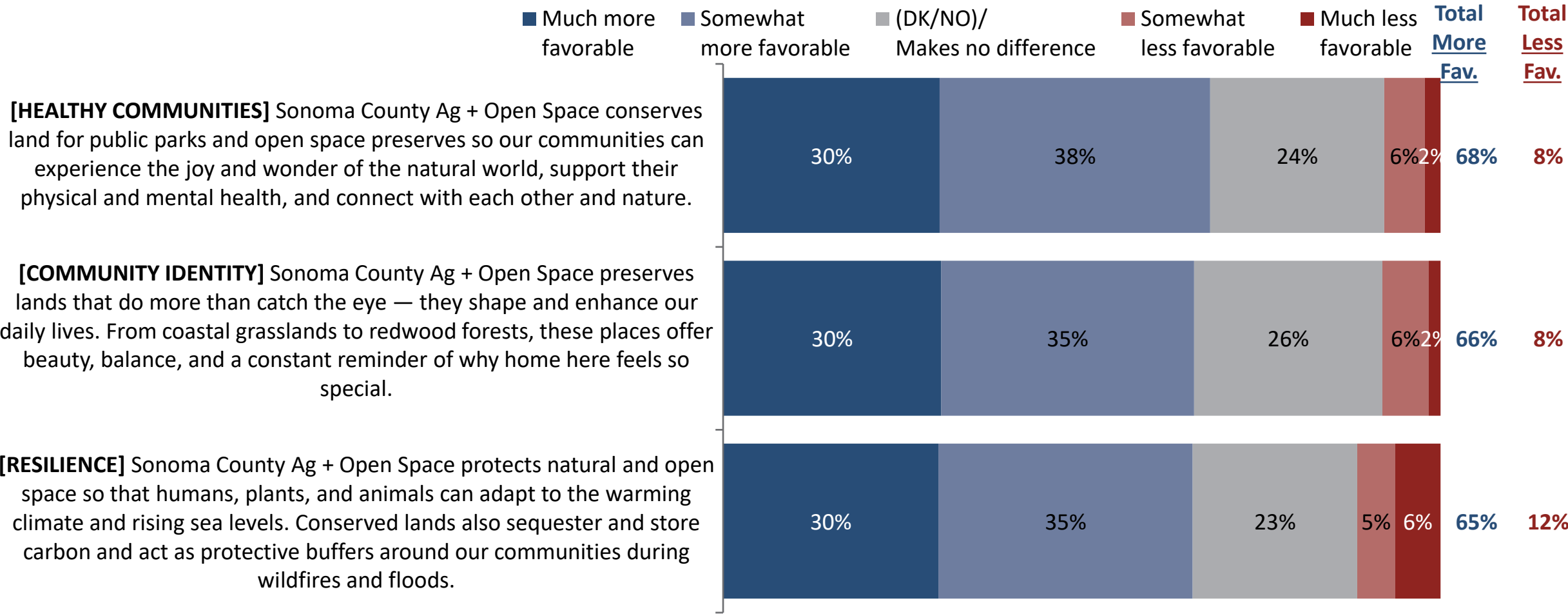
Information focused on wildland, water, and agricultural land conservation resonates with voters.



Q38.-Q43. Next I'm going to read you some statements about Sonoma County Ag + Open Space. After each one, please tell me if you have a much more favorable, somewhat more favorable, somewhat less favorable, much less favorable opinion of Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, or if it makes no difference.

Additional Information

Other information also has a positive impact.

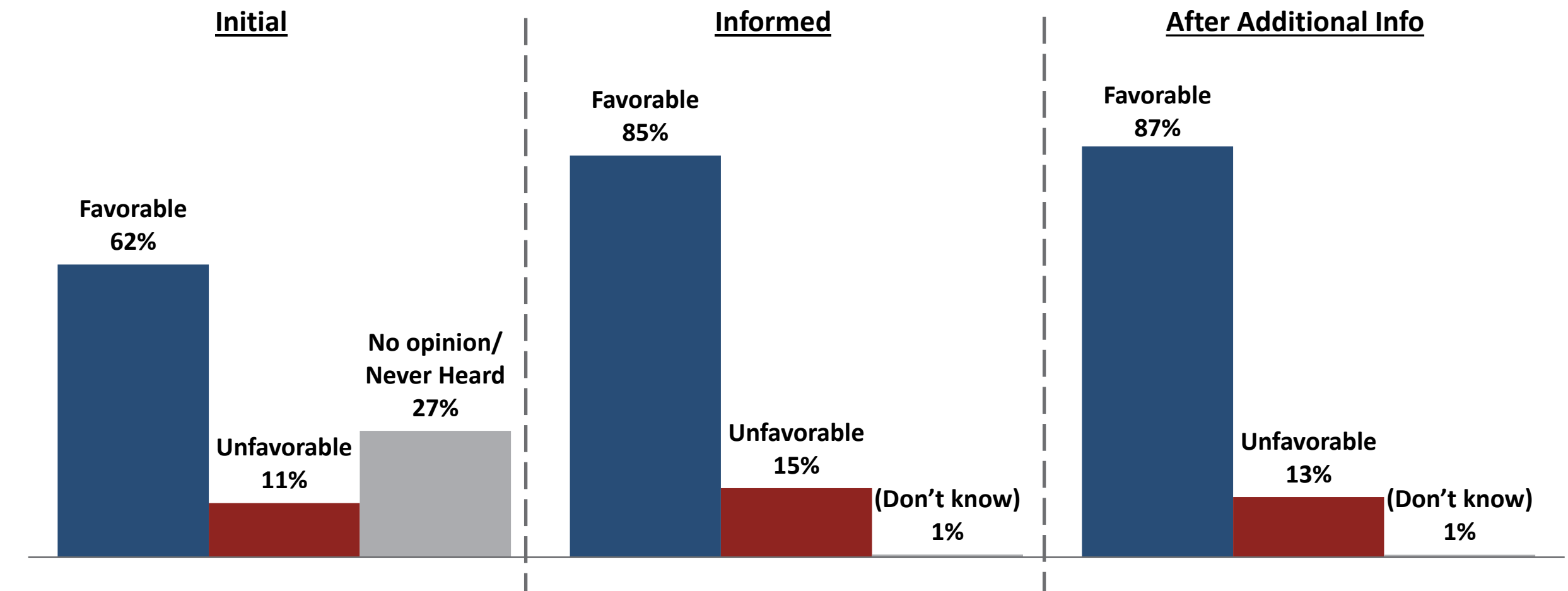


Q38.-Q43. Next I'm going to read you some statements about Sonoma County Ag + Open Space. After each one, please tell me if you have a much more favorable, somewhat more favorable, somewhat less favorable, much less favorable opinion of Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, or if it makes no difference.

Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Rating After Additional Info

After hearing all information, nearly nine-in-ten voters indicate a favorable opinion of Ag + Open Space.

Finally, after everything you have heard, do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable opinion of Sonoma County Ag + Open Space?

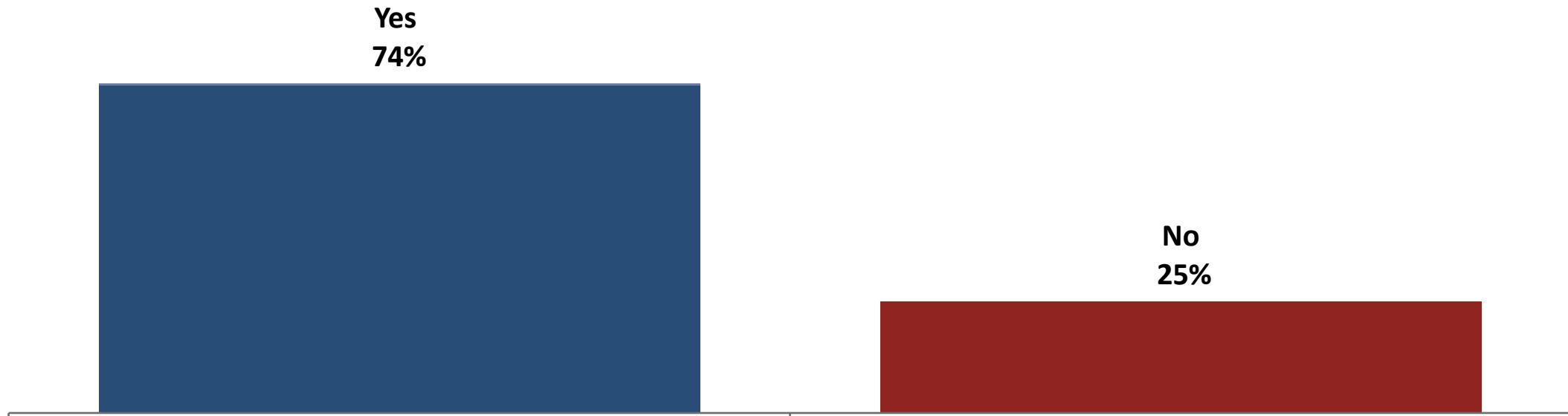


Potential Reauthorization Measure

Asked toward the end of the survey, nearly 3-in-4 voters say they would support a potential reauthorization measure on a future ballot.

There may be a measure on the ballot in the future that reads as follows:

To protect natural lands from development; preserve local farms and ranches; protect our drinking water sources, including rivers, lakes and groundwater; preserve habitat for plants and animals; and conserve land for parks and open spaces without raising taxes; shall the measure continuing Sonoma County's existing ¼ cent sales tax funding the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District be adopted, providing approximately \$32 million annually, until ended by voters, with independent audits, public disclosure, citizen oversight, and all funds spent locally?



- ▶ Sonoma County Ag + Open Space is viewed favorably by voters, especially when they are provided with information about Ag + Open Space's purpose and initiatives.
- ▶ Communications explaining Sonoma County Ag + Open Space's work to safeguard wetlands, local drinking water, and agricultural lands resonate strongly.
- ▶ This poll provides initial indication that support for a ballot measure to reauthorize the Sonoma County Ag + Open Space's sales tax funding is widespread. However, further research is recommended to provide a more comprehensive picture of measure feasibility.



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M E M O R A N D U M

Date: June 22, 2026
To: Advisory Committee
From: Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager
Subject: State Funding and Opportunities for Ag + Open Space

Overview

Approved by California voters in November 2024, Proposition 4 — the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 — authorizes \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to build the state’s resilience to climate change. Funds are distributed across eight categories and administered by approximately 30 state agencies, with at least 40% directed to projects benefiting vulnerable or disadvantaged communities.

The Legislature appropriated \$3.5 billion in 2025-26 for first-year implementation. The Governor’s proposed 2026-27 budget adds \$2.1 billion, leaving approximately \$4.4 billion for future years. However, implementation has been slower than anticipated: many state agencies are still working through a lengthy regulatory rulemaking process (the Administrative Procedure Act, or APA) to develop their grant programs — a process that can delay funding by 12 to 18 months.

Proposition 4 Spending Plan (\$ in Millions)

Category	Bond Total	2025-26	2026-27 Proposed	Remaining
Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood & Water Resilience	\$3,800	\$1,199	\$792	\$1,809
Wildfire and Forest Resilience	\$1,500	\$598	\$314	\$588
Coastal Resilience	\$1,200	\$279	\$107	\$814
Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions	\$1,200	\$390	\$199	\$611
Clean Energy	\$850	\$275	\$326	\$249
Park Creation and Outdoor Access	\$700	\$466	\$35	\$199
Extreme Heat Mitigation	\$450	\$110	\$241	\$99
Climate Smart Agriculture	\$300	\$153	\$89	\$58
TOTALS	\$10,000	\$3,470	\$2,103	\$4,427

Source: Legislative Analyst’s Office, *The 2026-27 Budget: Proposition 4 Spending Plan* (February 2026). Numbers may not add due to rounding.

AB 35 (Alvarez): Accelerating Proposition 4 Implementation

Assembly Bill 35, the Proposition 4 Implementation Acceleration Act, would exempt Proposition 4 grant programs from the APA rulemaking process, removing the primary administrative bottleneck delaying the distribution of funds. Instead of going through lengthy rulemaking, agencies would submit their program guidelines to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), ensuring accountability, oversight, and public engagement requirements would remain intact.

This exemption is not unprecedented — prior natural resources bonds (Propositions 84 and 68) included similar provisions. Without it, projects for wildfire prevention, groundwater recharge, habitat restoration, and land conservation could be delayed by more than a year.

Current status: AB 35 passed the Assembly in January 2026 with strong bipartisan support and is currently in the Senate. The bill is backed by more than 100 organizations statewide and has no formal opposition.

Why it matters for Ag + Open Space: Land acquisition is time sensitive. Delays in grant programs directly affect our pipeline projects and our ability to leverage local sales tax dollars with Proposition 4 funds. Staff has actively supported AB 35 through TOGETHER Bay Area's Sacramento advocacy efforts.

Proposition 4

Several Proposition 4 categories align directly with Ag + Open Space's mission, existing programs, and current project pipeline:

Coastal Resilience

The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) — one of Ag + Open Space's most consistent funding partners — administers 70% of authorized coastal funding and plans to allocate approximately \$30 million annually for coastal resilience projects. As part of the TOGETHER Bay Area coalition, Ag + Open Space advocated for doubling that to \$60 million annually. Past SCC-funded projects include Jenner Headlands Preserve, Buckeye Forest, Montini Open Space Preserve, Tolay Lake Regional Park, and Willow Creek.

Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) programs (\$111 million proposed in 2026-27, plus \$21 million for wildlife crossings and corridors) can support landscape-scale conservation in the southern Mayacamas Mountains, where Ag + Open Space's Saddle Mountain Preserve sits in proximity to Hood Mountain Regional Park, Sugarloaf State Park, and several other protected properties. Current projects where we are either actively pursuing WCB funding, or may in the future, include South Sonoma Mountain (two proposals submitted totaling \$6 million in requests) Robert's Oaks, and Berry Forest Preserve.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience

Proposition 4 wildfire funding can extend and amplify PG&E Tubbs Fire settlement funds through the Sonoma County Vegetation Management Program, supporting landscape-scale vegetation management in high-risk fire areas. The Vegetation Management Coordinator collaborates with county partners to determine opportunities and grantees best suited for these grant funds.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

Both our traditional agricultural conservation work and newer farmland access programs may benefit from this category. Many current projects align with easement acquisition on climate-resilient working lands, and the Buy-Protect-Sell pilot program may benefit from programs aimed at increasing land access and tenure for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.

Park Creation and Outdoor Access

Community Spaces Matching Grant Program grantees may be able to leverage Proposition 4 park funds — particularly the \$26 million directed to reducing climate impacts on disadvantaged communities — to expand transformative public spaces in underserved Sonoma County neighborhoods.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program

In addition to Proposition 4, Ag + Open Space uses the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program as a key funding source for agricultural conservation easements. Administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and the California Department of Conservation, SALC is funded through California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) — the revenue generated by the state's Cap-and-Invest Program. Since its first round of awards in 2015, SALC has conserved more than 194,000 acres of agricultural land statewide and is recognized as the third most cost-effective GGRF program, responsible for 15% of the fund's total greenhouse gas emission reductions despite receiving only 2% of its funding.

Ag + Open Space has received SALC funding for two completed projects – Mattos Dairy and McClelland Dairy – and was awarded \$7 million last October for the South Sonoma Mountain properties. This is a critical funding source for our agency and one we hope to use well into the future.

Future Funding at Risk

The longer-term outlook for SALC funding faces significant uncertainty due to changes to the Cap-and-Invest Program approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) earlier this year.

The result of CARB's updated regulations could reduce Cap-and-Invest auction revenue by up to \$4 billion over four years – cutting annual GGRF revenues to approximately \$2 billion per year, roughly half of recent levels. The Legislative Analyst's Office has said this would be “inadequate to fully support Tier 2 programs” and would “leave no funding for Tier 3 programs.”

Senate Bill 840 (Limón) established a framework intended to protect SALC by securing approximately \$80 million annually through a guaranteed share of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. However, the Governor's 2026-27 budget proposal is silent on the specific SALC allocation within AHSC, and the collapse of GGRF revenues could undermine the SB 840 framework altogether. Fortunately, both the Assembly and Senate have expressed frustration and have signaled interest in revisiting GGRF spending priorities.

California Climate & Action Network (CalCAN), American Farmland Trust, and the larger conservation community are actively advocating to protect SALC's funding share and to secure a larger dedicated percentage of GGRF for agricultural climate solutions. Ag + Open Space is monitoring these developments closely, as SALC has been a valuable tool for funding agricultural conservation easements

in Sonoma County and a reduction in program funding would significantly affect our capacity to protect working lands.

Next Steps

Staff will monitor the following milestones and pursue grant opportunities as programs come online:

- Senate action on AB 35 — passage would significantly accelerate availability of Proposition 4 grant funds.
- Final 2026-27 state budget adoption — will confirm Proposition 4 appropriations and clarify the SALC allocation.
- SCC and WCB grant program guidelines — once finalized, Ag + Open Space and partners can submit applications for coastal resilience and biodiversity funding.
- GGRF legislative and regulatory developments — staff will monitor advocacy efforts to protect SALC funding and engage through TOGETHER Bay Area as appropriate.

										Agricultural Lands Community Identity Healthy Communities Water Wildlands Project Evaluation Initiating Project Due Diligence Project Structure CE Negotiations Appraisal Process FOC BOD Escrow/Closing Purchase Price (BOD Approval)										
	Conservation Easement Project Name	Acreage (approx)	Sup. District	Vital Lands Initiative Goals					Step 1	Step 2			Step 3			Step 4			Project Phase	Comments
1	Bavarian Lion Vineyards	1,858	4																Initiating Project	Project accepted; initiation pending
2	Berry Forest Preserve	133	5																Project Structure	Conducting survey work
3	Bianchi Ranches - Two Rock	619	2																Approvals/Baseline	Offer pending
4	Crane Creek Ranch	290	1																Initiating Project	Project accepted; initiation pending
5	Crawford Gulch	92	5																Project Structure	Developing draft conservation easement terms and maps
6	Deniz Ernest & Beverly Trust	217	2																Project Structure	Negotiating conservation easement terms.
7	Deniz Family Farm	315	2																Negotiations	Negotiating conservation easement terms.
8	Diamond W Ranch	849	2												+				Approvals/Baseline	Appraisal contract underway, baseline report initiated.
9	Gill Creek Confluence	51	4																Negotiations	Negotiating CE with the landowner
10	Ielmorini Ranch - Sonoma Mountain	417	2																Project Structure	Completing due diligence.
11	Laguna Oakwild	150	5																Project Structure	Developing draft conservation easement terms and maps
12	Landwell	22	5																Project Structure	Developing draft conservation easement
13	Limping Turkey Ranch	158	2																Initiating Project	Project accepted; initiating pending
14	Little Rancheria Creek	276	5																Project Structure	Developing draft conservation easement terms and maps
15	Lobban - Mark West Creek	274	1																Negotiations	Negotiating trail easement provisions.
16	Nadale Ranch	390	2																Initiating Project	Project accepted; initiation pending
17	Osprey Hill Ranch	347	5											+					Negotiations	Negotiating CE.
18	Peters Ranch	278	2																Negotiations	Negotiating CE with the landowner
19	Preston Farm	133	4										+						Project Structure	Restarting project
20	Roberts Oaks	411	1											N/A	+				Appraisal Process	Appraisal Phase - FOC meeting May 7th
21	Sea Way	245	5											+					Negotiations	Project Structure
22	Sonoma Mountain Views - Coal Mine Creek	681	2																Due Diligence	Completing due diligence.
23	South Fork Gualala River	299	5																Negotiations	Negotiating CE
24	South Sonoma Mountain - Grove	371	1 & 2																Approvals/Baseline	Offer pending
25	South Sonoma Mountain - Rodgers Creek North	393	1 & 2																Approvals/Baseline	Offer pending
26	South Sonoma Mountain - Rodgers Creek South	421	2																Approvals/Baseline	Offer pending
27	South Sonoma Mountain - Skyline	480	1 & 2																Approvals/Baseline	Offer pending
28	Starrett Hill	319	5																Negotiations	Draft CE in internal review
29	Willow Avenue Farm	8	2																Negotiations	Negotiating CE
30	Witt Home Ranch	395	2																Project Structure	Developing project structure.
Total Acres		10,890																		

+ indicates change in phase since last update

On Hold projects																				
1	Bucher-Russell Ranch	562	4																On-Hold	On hold as property listed for sale
2	Lafranchi		5																On-Hold	On hold at request of owner
3	Laguna Edge	29	5																On-Hold	Project is on hold at landowner's request
4	Nolan Creek 1	317	5																On-Hold	Project Structure - development
5	Nolan Creek 2	171	5																On-Hold	Project Structure - development
6	Nolan Creek 3	49	5																On-Hold	Project Structure - development
7	Oak Ridge Angus (LaFranchi)		4																On-Hold	On hold
9	Reynoso Vineyard	395	4																On-Hold	On-Hold due to landowner finances Site Evaluation October 16
10	Rincon Hills	218	1																On-Hold	Updating project structure/transaction
21	Rowland Mack	168	1																On-Hold	Appraisal work underway + internal review of CE
11	Russian River Habitat Restoration	63	4																On-Hold	On-Hold
12	Spring Hill Ranch	579	2																On-Hold	On hold pending subordination of loans

Acquisition Project Status Chart | Matching Grant Projects

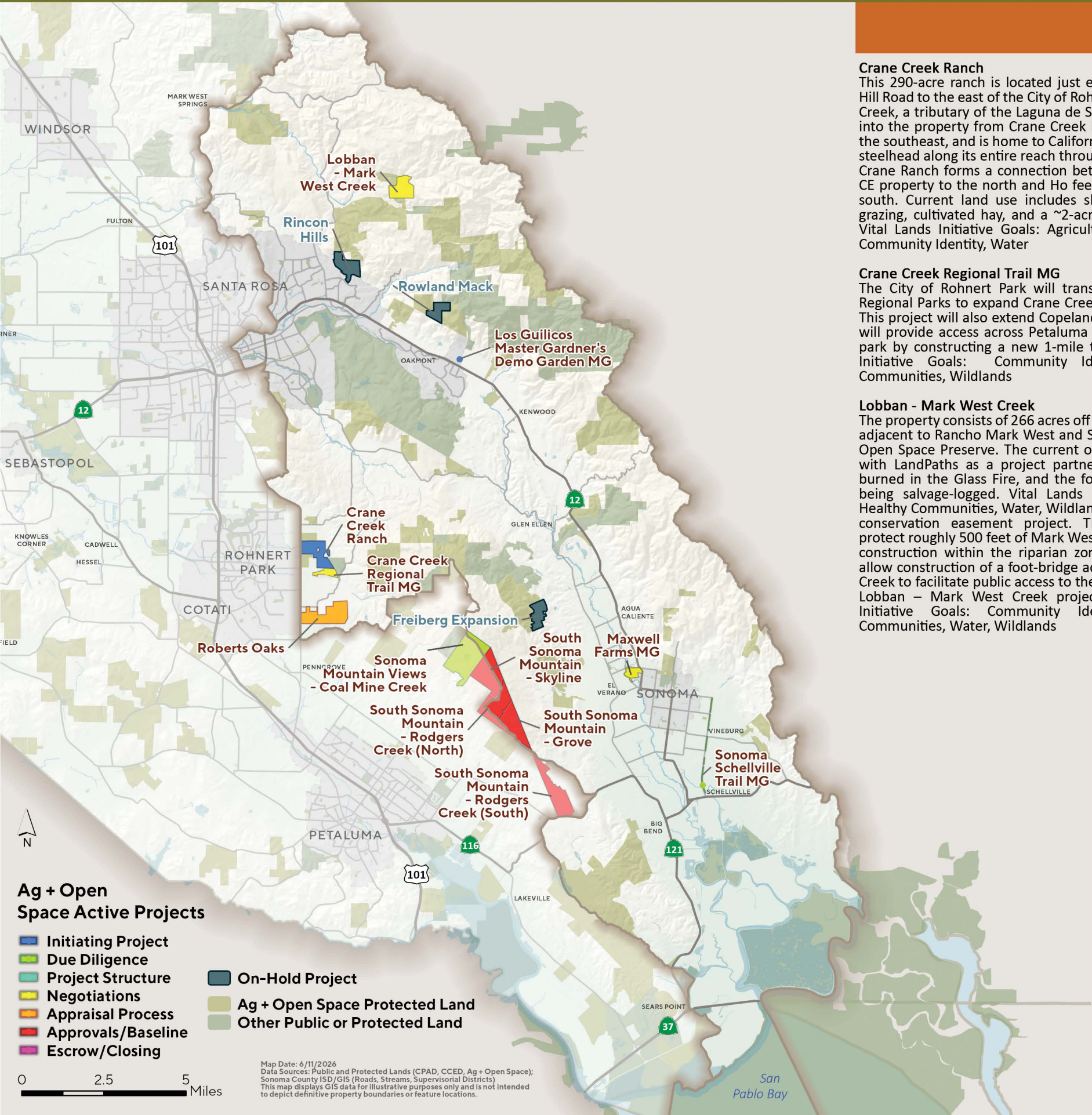
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

6/15/2026

			Initiating Project Due Diligence Project Structure CE Negotiations Appraisal Process FOC BOD Escrow/Closing Implementation + Tracking Match												
Matching Grant Project Name	Acreage (approx)	Sup. District	Step 2				Step 3			Step 4	Step 5	Status	Comments		
A Place to Play	87	5					N/A			N/A		Due Diligence	Completing due diligence.		
AmeriCorps Trail	11	5							+	+	+	Post-Closing	Project closed, monitoring match and ongoing compliance.		
Badger Park	20	4										Negotiations	Negotiating legal agreements.		
Bodega Bay Trail	179	5										Project Structure	Continued due diligence by Regional Parks for project design.		
Colgan Creek Phase 4 MG	22	3							+	+		Escrow/Closing	BOD May 12th. Closing Expected in June.		
Colgan Creek Phase 5 MG	4	3										Initiating Project	Paused until close of Phase 4.		
Crane Creek Regional Trail	73	1										Negotiations	Regional Parks trail plans in redesign due to cultural resources found		
Denman Reach	2	2										Negotiations	Pending McNear Peninsula amendment.		
Geyserville Community Plaza	1	4										Negotiations	Negotiating legal agreements. Bringing to FOC and Board in July or August		
Graton Town Square	0.6	5										Post-Closing	Monitoring match and ongoing compliance		
Guerneville River Park Phase 2	5	5										Project Structure	Re-initiating negotiations with Regional Parks to discuss easement terms and extent.		
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension	22	2					N/A					Post-Closing	Monitoring match and ongoing compliance		
Laura Fish Somersal Park	37	4										Negotiations	Negotiating legal agreements		
Los Guilicos Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden	5	1										Initiating Project	Initiating project		
Maxwell Farms	81	1					N/A					Negotiations	Ag + Open Space has drafted CE using new boilerplate and sent to Regional Parks for review.		
Occidental Community Plaza	0.7	5										Initiating Project	Completing due diligence.		
Petaluma Bounty Community Farm	3	2										Initiating Project	Paused to find new sponsor		
Petaluma River Park	28	2										Negotiations	Developing legal agreements with grantee.		
Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c	3	3										Negotiations	Negotiating legal agreements		
Russian River Community Park	3.8	5										Due Diligence	Completing due diligence.		
Sonoma Schellville Trail	14	1										Due Diligence	Completing due diligence.		
Steamer Landing Park Development (McNear Peninsula)	10**	2										Negotiations	MGA and RC under review by City of Petaluma.		
Tierra de Rosas	1	3					+	+				Approvals/Baseline	Negotiating legal agreements. Bringing project to FOC and Board in July.		
Tom Schopflin Fields Phase 2	21	4					+	+				Approvals/Baseline	Negotiating legal agreements		
Total Acres	624.1														

** Restoration/Development Project on previous acquisition.

[illegible]



Active Projects

Crane Creek Ranch
This 290-acre ranch is located just east of Petaluma Hill Road to the east of the City of Rohnert Park. Crane Creek, a tributary of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, flows into the property from Crane Creek Regional Park to the southeast, and is home to California Central Coast steelhead along its entire reach through the property. Crane Ranch forms a connection between the Crane CE property to the north and Ho fee property to the south. Current land use includes sheep and cattle grazing, cultivated hay, and a ~2-acre plot for hops. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands and Community Identity, Water

Crane Creek Regional Trail MG
The City of Rohnert Park will transfer 75 acres to Regional Parks to expand Crane Creek Regional Park. This project will also extend Copeland Creek trail and will provide access across Petaluma Hill Road to the park by constructing a new 1-mile trail. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Wildlands

Lobban - Mark West Creek
The property consists of 266 acres off St. Helena Road, adjacent to Rancho Mark West and Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve. The current owner is working with LandPaths as a project partner. The property burned in the Glass Fire, and the forest is currently being salvage-logged. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands conservation easement project. The project will protect roughly 500 feet of Mark West Creek, prevent construction within the riparian zone, and it could allow construction of a foot-bridge across Mark West Creek to facilitate public access to the larger 266-acre Lobban – Mark West Creek project. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Los Guilicos Master Gardner's Demonstration Garden MG
A project of the University of California Master Gardeners of Sonoma County, will transform a once-devastated parcel on the Los Guilicos campus—burned in the 2020 Glass Fire—into a thriving, educational space. With support from the Community Spaces Matching Grant Program, the Master Gardeners will create a fully accessible demonstration garden, showcasing sustainable gardening practices that support native habitats, promote wildlife-friendly landscapes, address food insecurity, and enhance climate resilience. Visitors will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning through themed gardens and a state-of-the-art greenhouse classroom. Planned features include an oak arbor picnic area, a children's garden expansion, a native plants garden, an outdoor classroom, a fire-resilient garden, a greenhouse and shade house, an expanded orchard, and an outdoor nature classroom—offering a welcoming space for education, inspiration, and community connection

Maxwell Farms MG
Regional Parks will construct park improvements to create new recreational opportunities at this existing park. Park amenities such as restrooms and trails will be constructed. Regional Parks is also partnering with the Sonoma Ecology Center to implement restoration on a 0.25 mile stretch of Sonoma Creek. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water

Roberts Oaks
Roberts Oaks is approximately 412 acres sited directly east of Rohnert Park across Petaluma Hill Road. The property has a 4.5-acre spring fed pond, undulating mature oak woodlands with spectacular views in multiple directions. With its spectacular scenery and proximity to urban populations, Ag + Open Space will acquire the property in fee and transfer it to Regional Parks. The property's excellent access, unique topography, water and habitat features including numerous wooded and shady glades with bucolic views tee it up to be an outstanding park.

Sonoma Schellville Trail MG
In the mid-1980's, Sonoma County Regional Parks began their work to buy a railroad right of way in Schellville to fill a critical gap in the local and regional trail system. Regional Parks will be able to leverage Matching Grant funds to finally purchase the remaining land and build a trail that will connect local and regional trail systems, including the San Francisco Bay Trail that connects 47 cities across 9 counties.

South Sonoma Mountain - Grove
This 369-acre property, near the summit of Sonoma Mountain, shares a boundary with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. The property is located at the terminus of Grove Street and is entirely within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing and limited residential development. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

South Sonoma Mountain - Rogers Creek (North & South)
This 813-acre property is comprised of two parcels. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit and the southeastern boundary is Stage Gulch Road. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing, some vineyard use, and limited residential development. The northern part of the property is contiguous with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. Ellis, Lafferty, and Rodgers Creek, all intermittent, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

South Sonoma Mountain - Skyline
This project will place a conservation easement on a 491-acre property so it remains as open space for wildlife habitat, grazing and limited residential use. The property is contiguous with George Ranch and quite visible given its location near the summit of Sonoma Mountain. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. Rodgers and Lafferty Creeks, two intermittent creeks, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead and is potential habitat for yellow-legged frog. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

On Hold

Freiberg Expansion
Located on the eastern face of Sonoma Mountain, the Freiberg property is visible from the Sonoma Valley. The 182-acres include rolling hills and oak woodland. This property is part of a larger cluster of easement-protected properties that protect wildlife habitat. Ag + Open Space conserved the property with a conservation easement in 1995.

Rincon Hills
Ag + Open Space would purchase a conservation easement on this 218-acre property within the Santa Rosa City Limits. The property is adjacent to Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve to the northeast, and City zoning could allow subdivision into more than 2

Rowland Mack
This project includes a conservation easement over a 168-acre property south of and adjacent to the El Recreo conservation easement and the Lawson Addition to Hood Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve. This acquisition would expand protection along the southern Mayacamas Mountains and possibly facilitate expansion of the park. This property is in the Badger Creek watershed ? a tributary to Santa Rosa Creek, a steelhead stream. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Ag + Open Space Active Projects

- Initiating Project
- Due Diligence
- Project Structure
- Negotiations
- Appraisal Process
- Approvals/Baseline
- Escrow/Closing
- On-Hold Project
- Ag + Open Space Protected Land
- Other Public or Protected Land

Active Projects

Bianchi Ranches - Two Rock

Bianchi Ranches - Two Rock is a 632 acre property which seeks the protection of an agricultural based conservation easement over three contiguous ranches. Presently, Ag + Open Space is working with the owner on an NCRS application for grant monies.

Deniz Ernest & Beverly Trust

This project includes a conservation easement on a 217-acre property on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. Adobe Creek, a tributary to the Petaluma River, crosses the property. A conservation easement would preserve the land for agricultural production. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water

Deniz Family Farm

This project includes a conservation easement on a 315-acre property on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. A mile of Lynch Creek, a tributary to the Petaluma River, flows across the property. Based on existing legal lots and zoning, the property could be subdivided into nine separate ownerships.Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water

Denman Reach MG

The City of Petaluma seeks to acquire a 2.1-acre parcel that is pivotal to the completion of a larger 23.5-acre riparian restoration, public trail, environmental education, and flood control project on the Petaluma River. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Diamond W Ranch

This is certified organic 850-acre dairy near Valley Ford and Two Rock. It has a small stretch of Stemple Creek and is highly visible along Bodega Ave/Valley Ford Rd and Roblar Rd. The family would like to retire all but two of the nine development rights. A conservation easement would protect a large and highly productive agricultural property from parcelization and potential conversion out of agricultural use. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Water, Wildlands.

Ielmorini Ranch - Sonoma Mountain

This 417-acre cattle ranch is located northeast of Petaluma on the lower slopes of Sonoma Mountain. There is a year-round stream, Washington Creek, on the property, and the landowner has expressed interest in riparian conservation as well as continued

Limping Turkey Ranch

This 158-acre ranch is located between the Mattos and Camozzi conservation easements. The property's grasslands, terrain, abundant water, and adjacency to other agricultural lands make it a critical addition to a large block of agricultural conservation easements in the area. It is at high risk of conversion to rural residential homes because it has already been subdivided and prepared for development with wells, perc tests, and defined legal lots. A conservation easement on this property would likely consist of an amendment to the Camozzi easement to add this land with protection of its natural resource values. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Nadale Ranch

This is a 389.5 acre property west of Petaluma. Historically operated as an independent ranch and dairy, it is now leased to a neighboring dairy producer. The property contains sweeping views of Petaluma and Marin County, and is at the dividing point between three watersheds. Conservation will protect the scenic vistas from development and prevent subdivision and conversion from agricultural use. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity

Petaluma Bounty Community Farm MG

For over 15 years, Petaluma People's Services' Bounty Community Farm has grown and sold affordable, locally-grown fruits and vegetables in the center of Petaluma, while prioritizing the creation of opportunities for low-income and vulnerable community members to have fresh and healthy food. Matching Grant funds will help them purchase the land they've long farmed and continue their work of bringing fresh, healthy food and sustainable agricultural education to their community

Petaluma River Park MG

The Petaluma River Park Foundation will construct initial public recreational improvements on their recently acquired 10-acre parcel on McNear Peninsula, adjacent to Steamer Landing Park.These improvements will include trails, docks, plantings, and restrooms. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Wildlands

Peters Ranch

This project would include a conservation easement over a 277-acre dairy farm, located on Llano Road near the Laguna Treatment Plant. The property consists of rolling hills with mature oaks, woodlands, wetlands, and riparian habitats. Split by Laguna de Santa Rosa, it supports an active wildlife and recreation corridor. George McClelland, the owner and a respected Sonoma County dairy operator, intends to maintain and expand dairy operations whilst preserving the natural resources of a complex pasture, wetland, woodland, and riparian parcel. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agriculture Lands, Community Identity and Water.

South Sonoma Mountain Views - Coal Mine Creek

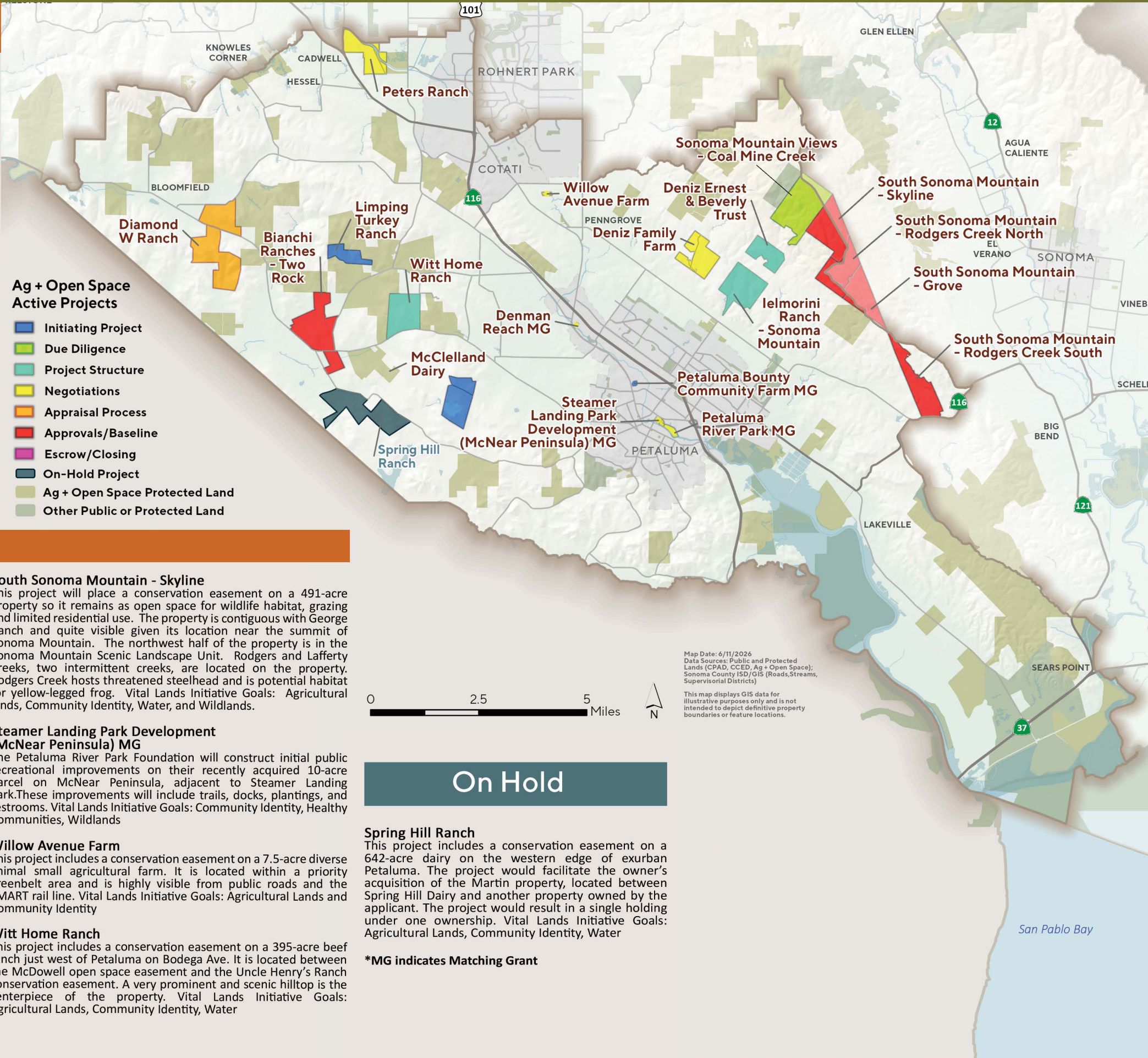
This 681-acre ranch located on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain. This family-owned ranch is operated as part of a larger complex, and is completely undeveloped, with wide spaces of open grasslands and oak savannah.

South Sonoma Mountain - Grove

This 369-acre property, near the summit of Sonoma Mountain, shares a boundary with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. The property is located at the terminus of Grove Street and is entirely within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing and limited residential development. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

South Sonoma Mountain - Rogers Creek (North & South)

This 813-acre property is comprised of two parcels. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit and the southeastern boundary is Stage Gulch Road. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing, some vineyard use, and limited residential development. The northern part of the property is contiguous with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. Ellis, Lafferty, and Rodgers Creek, all intermittent, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands



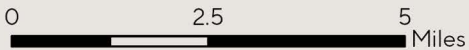
- Ag + Open Space Active Projects**
- Initiating Project
 - Due Diligence
 - Project Structure
 - Negotiations
 - Appraisal Process
 - Approvals/Baseline
 - Escrow/Closing
 - On-Hold Project
 - Ag + Open Space Protected Land
 - Other Public or Protected Land

South Sonoma Mountain - Skyline
This project will place a conservation easement on a 491-acre property so it remains as open space for wildlife habitat, grazing and limited residential use. The property is contiguous with George Ranch and quite visible given its location near the summit of Sonoma Mountain. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. Rodgers and Lafferty Creeks, two intermittent creeks, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead and is potential habitat for yellow-legged frog. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands.

Steamer Landing Park Development (McNear Peninsula) MG
The Petaluma River Park Foundation will construct initial public recreational improvements on their recently acquired 10-acre parcel on McNear Peninsula, adjacent to Steamer Landing Park.These improvements will include trails, docks, plantings, and restrooms. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Wildlands

Willow Avenue Farm
This project includes a conservation easement on a 7.5-acre diverse animal small agricultural farm. It is located within a priority greenbelt area and is highly visible from public roads and the SMART rail line. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands and Community Identity

Witt Home Ranch
This project includes a conservation easement on a 395-acre beef ranch just west of Petaluma on Bodega Ave. It is located between the McDowell open space easement and the Uncle Henry's Ranch conservation easement. A very prominent and scenic hilltop is the centerpiece of the property. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water



On Hold

Spring Hill Ranch
This project includes a conservation easement on a 642-acre dairy on the western edge of exurban Petaluma. The project would facilitate the owner's acquisition of the Martin property, located between Spring Hill Dairy and another property owned by the applicant. The project would result in a single holding under one ownership. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water

*MG indicates Matching Grant

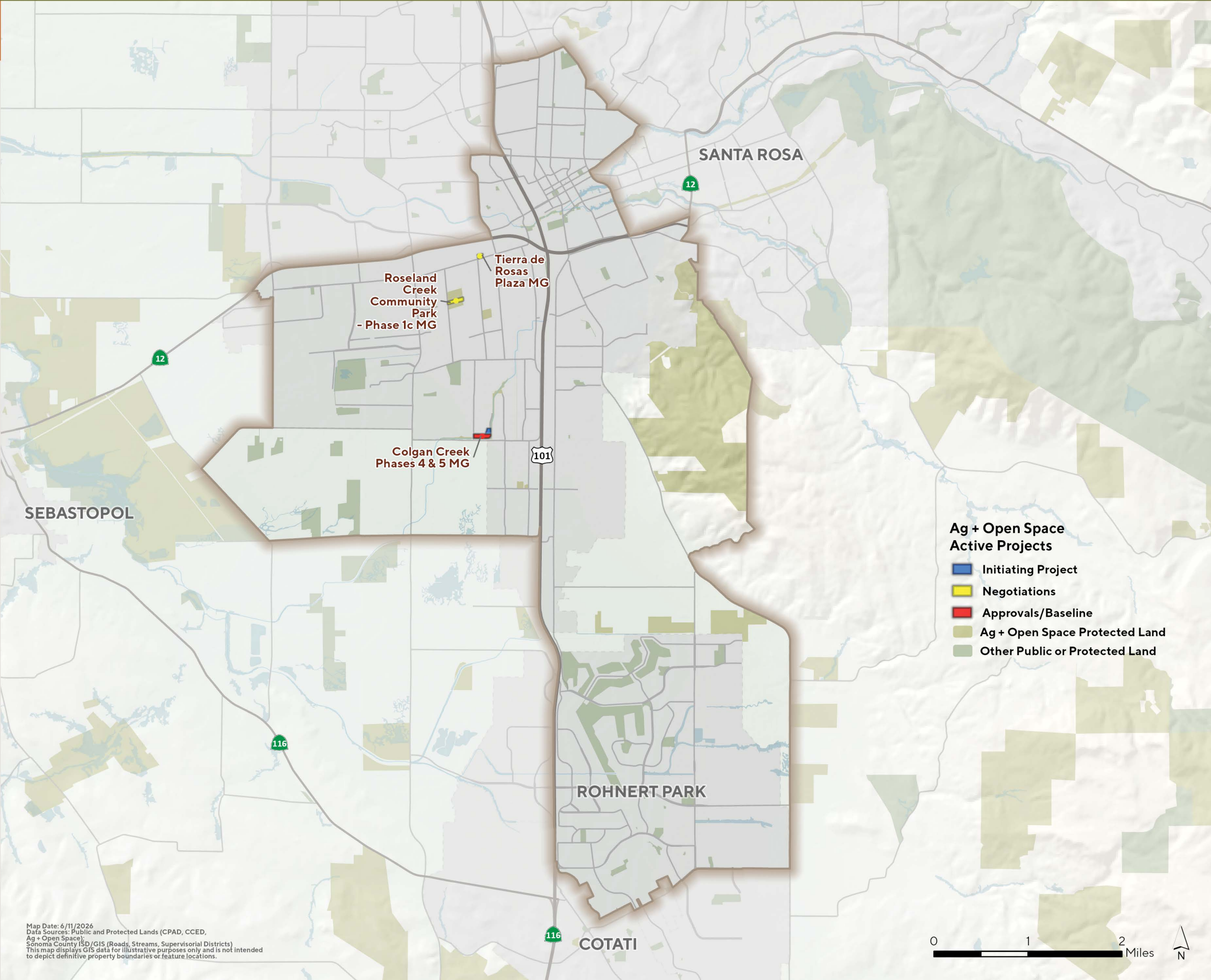
Active Projects

Colgan Creek Phase 4 & 5 MG
This project is for the acquisition of a 4-acre parcel adjacent to the existing Colgan Creek restoration, park development and trail project. This additional parcel will allow increased creek meander in the ongoing creek restoration effort, and will provide additional land for additional recreational development, including a neighborhood park. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water

Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c MG
This project is a 3-acre addition to Roseland 1a and 1b Community Park Matching Grant projects. We are working with the City of Santa Rosa to amend and replace the 1a and 1b conservation easements, so that there is one easement over the new park. This park is located between Burbank Ave and McMinn Ave in the Roseland neighborhood of Santa Rosa. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water

Tierra de Rosas Plaza MG
As part of long-term dream of the Roseland community, the Sonoma County Community Development Commission's Tierra de Rosas project will create an open green space in the heart of a major mixed-use development. In addition to the beloved Mitote Food Park, this park will be a core element of the plan to convert what is mostly parking lots and empty storefronts into a vibrant gathering, celebration, and recreation hub for Roseland residents

***MG indicates Matching Grant**



Active Projects

Badger Park MG
This Matching Grant Program project will protect via conservation easement up to 20 acres of parkland within the City of Healdsburg. The Badger Park Improvements and River Access project will officially incorporate the Russian River into Badger Park, providing the City’s first authorized river access point. The project will also construct improvements and infrastructure needed to accommodate river access. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Bavarian Lion Vineyards
This 1,858-acre conservation easement project in Knights Valley supports a mix of vineyard, grazing land, and moderately rugged wildland adjacent to the Pepperwood Preserve. It is positioned within an important wildlife corridor and hosts valley oak woodland, Coast redwood, and freshwater marsh. Franz Creek, a steelhead creek, and Redwood Creek, a steelhead and coho creek, flow across the property. Foothill yellow-legged frog, Kenwood Marsh checkerbloom, red-bellied newt, western pond turtle, and Sebastopol meadowfoam have all been observed on the property. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Wildlands, Water, Agricultural Lands, and Community Identity

Geyserville Community Plaza MG
With our first Matching Grant project in Geyserville, the Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Department and the Geyserville Municipal Advisory Council will help create the community’s first public park. Centrally located, and alongside the planned Smart Trail tracks and Great Redwood Trail, this park will create a more accessible way for residents to get outside and serve as a gathering space for beloved annual events. The park will also support the town’s climate resilience with designs that will offer flood protection and a shaded areas for residents to cool down during hot weather. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Gill Creek Confluence
This is a 51-acre property north of Geyserville. A conservation easement would provide an opportunity to protect and allow for restoration of Gill Creek and over 10 acres of Russian River floodplain. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water and Wildlands.

Laura Fish Somersal Park MG
With funding from the Matching Grant Program, the City of Healdsburg will construct new park facilities on their recently acquired 33-acre property in northern Healdsburg. The park will eventually provide connectivity via a public trail to Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Preston Farm
This project includes a conservation easement on 120 acres of agricultural land on the southwest side of Dry Creek. There is a narrow band of riparian habitat along Dry Creek and Pena Creek, but most of the property is developed or under intensive agricultural use. The landowners would like to convert more of the property to natural resource restoration and transition ownership to a community-based, education-focused farm. Staff is developing a complex project structure that will protect the agricultural values while enabling restoration of riparian habitat. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

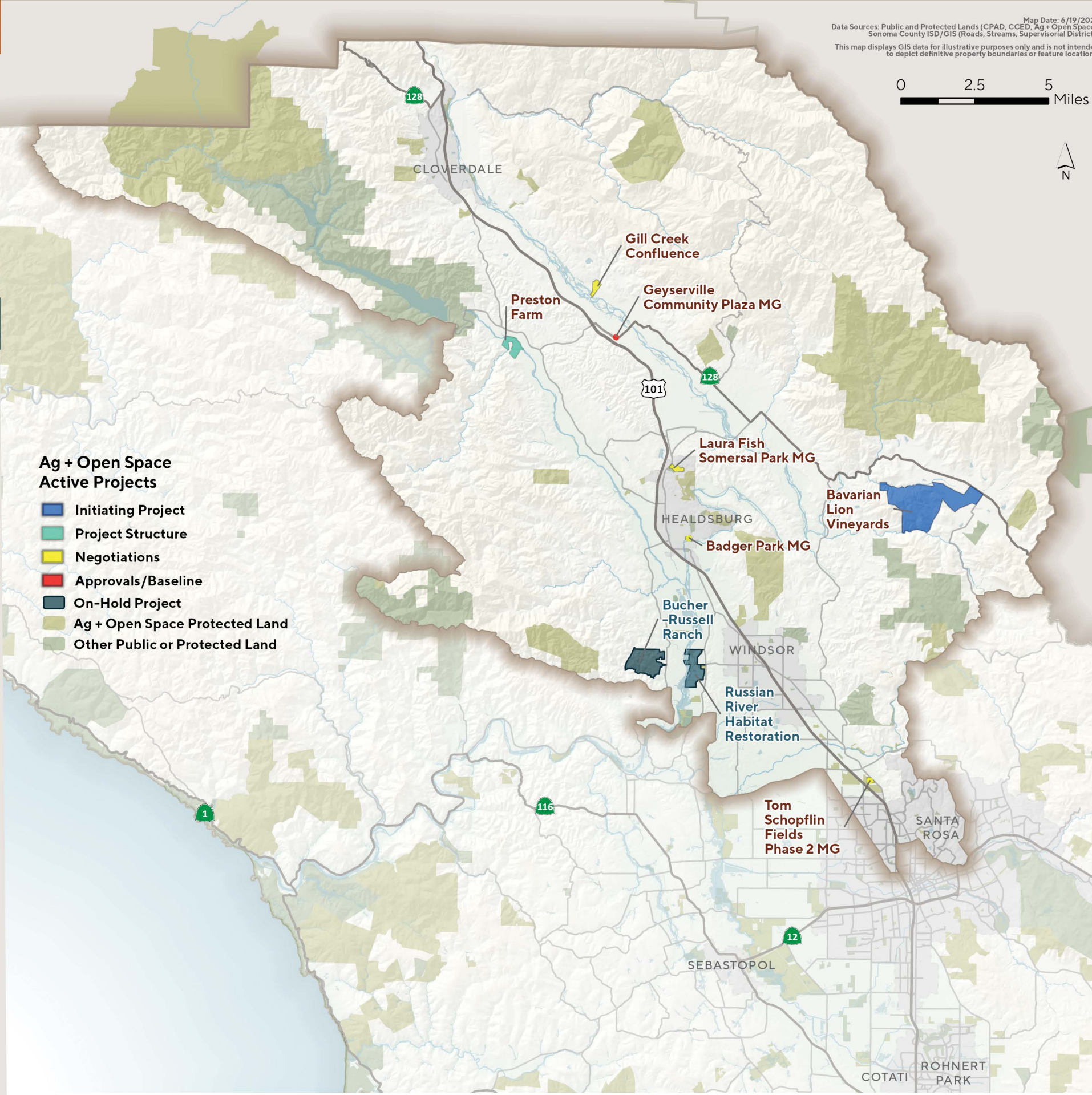
*MG indicates Matching Grant

Tom Schopflin Fields Phase 2 MG
The proposed project will bring a much-needed all-weather soccer field to Santa Rosa, creating more opportunities for underrepresented minority youth to play, train, and build community. With a shortage of accessible sports facilities in the area, this project will provide a vital outdoor space for recreation and connection. Funding from the Community Spaces Matching Grant Program will support the final design, permitting, and installation of the new field for Atlético Santa Rosa, including drainage, field base preparation, and turf installation. These improvements will not only expand public recreation opportunities at Tom Schopflin Fields but also help foster a more diverse and inclusive soccer community in Santa Rosa.

On Hold

Bucher-Russell Ranch
This project comprises a pair of properties totaling 561.56-acres in Sonoma County, just off Westside Road and west of the Town of Windsor, and a short way east of the Pryor Ranch Conservation Easement. The Bucher portion of the ranch has been operated as a dairy in the recent past but is now used for cattle grazing and vineyards. If conserved, the two properties would protect a large block of farmland, mature oaks, and steelhead habitat

Russian River Habitat Restoration
This project is in partnership with Endangered Habitats Conservancy and Hanson Aggregates. There are several parcels that were mined for gravel by Hanson Aggregates, which are now proposed to be part of a restoration project. The land will eventually be conveyed to Regional Parks and Ag + Open Space will hold a conservation easement over all or a portion of the 63 acres of the proposed restoration project. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands



Active Projects

A Place to Play MG
With funding from the Matching Grant Program, the City of Santa Rosa will construct the first all weather multi-sport fields at the existing park. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Americorps Trail MG
This trail project is a partnership with the City of Sebastopol. Located east of Morris Avenue on approximately 11 acres near the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the project consists of trail improvements, including a boardwalk, entrance signs and trailhead improvements, and a bridge across Zimpher Creek, connecting to Highway 12. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water

Berry Forest Preserve
This 132.63-acre conservation easement project located south of Monte Rio, is a forested property comprised of coast redwood, Douglas-fir, and tanoak forest that is adjacent to the future Starrett Hill Conservation Easement. Mesa Grande Gulch, a tributary to Russian River, flows across the property. It is positioned within an important wildlife corridor and has the potential to host, California giant salamander, northern spotted owl, and Sonoma tree vole. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Wildlands and Community Identity.

Bodega Bay Trail, North Harbor MG
With funding from the Matching Grant Program, Sonoma County Regional Parks will construct a 0.6-mile trail from the Bodega Bay Community Center to the Bay. This will extend existing trail connections and provide pedestrian and bicycle access off of Highway 1. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Chanslor Ranch
This is a conservation easement acquisition over the 378-acre Chanslor Ranch in partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks to establish more parkland on the Sonoma Coast. Chanslor Ranch is adjacent to the Colliss conservation easement, Sonoma Coast State Park, and Carrington Coast Ranch Regional Park and OSP. The property hosts a variety of habitat types including Western North American Freshwater Marsh and native grasses. A portion of Salmon Creek runs through the property and hosts steelhead and freshwater shrimp. The property helps conserve a highly scenic piece of the Sonoma County coastline that is visible from Highway 1 and Carrington Coast Ranch Regional Park and OSP. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water, Wildlands, Community Identity and Healthy Communities

Crawford Gulch
This 92-acre acquisition is a partnership with Sweetwater Springs Water District and the Monte Rio Recreation and Park District. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water, Wildlands, and Healthy Communities

Guerneville River Park Phase 2 MG
This 0.53-acre property is located immediately east of the Highway 116 bridge across the Russian River from Guerneville. The 1.17-acre Guerneville River Park, lies both east and west of the bridge. The park was developed in 2007. The fee acquisition is a 0.53-acre (23,053 square foot) portion of the 1.17-acre parcel. The property is undeveloped except for an old barn, and a paved emergency road from neighboring properties to the Highway 116 bridge. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Laguna Oakwild
This 149.88-acre prperty is located northwest of Santa Rosa near the confluence of Mark West Creek and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Mark West Creek flows through the property, and backwaters into a large wetland complex used by migratory waterfowl. The remainder of the property has been a family farm for most of the last century, and is a mix of beef cattle grazing and vineyards. A conservation easement will protect the wetlands and streams, while allowing for continued agricultural production.

*MG indicates Matching Grant

Landwell
This is a 21.66-acre property located west of Sebastopol and along Jonive Creek, which supports steelhead trout and other aquatic species. The property has been recently acquired by an affordable housing cooperative, which plans to offer educational opportunities and expand existing small-scale farming operations. Conservation of the property will support the farming operation and establish protections for the riparian corridor and floodplain wetlands.

Little Rancheria Creek
This 276.16-acre conservation easement project located directly south of the Gloeckner-Turner Ranch Conservation Easement and two miles east of the Warm Springs arm of the Lake Sonoma Reservoir. The property is aligned along Little Rancheria Creek, a year-round steelhead-bearing stream that flows across the property. The property features redwood, Douglas-fir, mixed-hardwood, and riparian forest, as well as areas of manzanita and chapparral. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water and Wildlands.

Occidental Community Plaza
The Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Department is working to transform an underused lot in the heart of Occidental into the town's first public community open space. This vibrant new gathering place will provide opportunities for recreation and connection for residents and visitors alike. With support from the Community Spaces Matching Grant Program, the project will fund conceptual plans, construction documents, permits, bike racks, interpretive signage, railings, and landscaped vegetated swales. Additionally, grading and fill work will elevate the park to match the height of the existing public parking lot, ensuring accessibility for all.

Osprey Hill Ranch
This is a 347-acre scenic coastal property north of Bodega Pay. The property is direct south of Sonoma Coast State Park – Red Hill Addition and Wright Hill Ranch Regional & Open Space Preserve, and east of Highway 1. The property features wetland and aquatic habitats suitable for restoration. A conservation easement would protect the property from development and will preserve the coastal scenic viewshed. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands.

Russian River Community Park
The Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Department is using Community Spaces Matching Grant funding to create a much-needed community park in the heart of Guerneville. This rare, flat open space—located near downtown and adjacent to the Guerneville County Park and Ride—offers an ideal setting for recreation and gathering. The site, which features Liverau Creek and valuable riparian habitat, will be thoughtfully designed to balance natural restoration with community use. Planned improvements include creek restoration, a stormwater treatment swale, an open grass multi-use field, a natural play structure, a community garden, picnic areas, dog parks, an amphitheater, a nature trail, restrooms, and permeable parking. This park will provide a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike, fostering recreation, connection, and environmental stewardship

Sea Way
This is a 245.27-acre property in coastal headlands near Bodega Bay. The property was used for cattle ranching until the mid-1980s, after which it was largely left to nature, except for a small home and lavender farm on one part of the property. The property is in a priority greenbelt area and is highly visible from Highway 1 and Bodega Bay. The conservation easement will limit development and preserve views and natural habitat.

South Fork Gualala
This 299-acre conservation easement project is located near the community of Fort Ross and has 1.3 miles of frontage of the South Fork of the Gualala River. The property features redwood, Douglas-fir, mixed-hardwood, and riparian forest. Vital Land Initiative Goals: Water and Wildlands.

Starrett Hill
This 319-acre fee acquisition is located between Torr West (Regional Park) and Sonoma Coast State Park. The property is owned by the Sweetwater Springs Water District and is a partnership with the current landowner and Monte Rio Recreation and Park District. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

